

Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 10

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

May 26, 2010

GARMISCH

Do the plant dance

With the help of a local “green thumb,” preschoolers use plants to beautify the post exchange

PAGE 14

ANSBACH

It's in the mail

Deployed 412th ASB Soldiers realize mail is much more than just paper, ink and tape; it's more like morale in a box

PAGE 16

HOHENFELS

Soldiers' best friend

The 527th Military Police Company honors a dog that made a difference

PAGE 18

SCHWEINFURT

Show of support

The 44th ESB and 15th Eng. Bn. join forces to save lives, one pint at a time

PAGE 20



Graf remembers

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr will honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States. A Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony will be held Thursday, May 27, 3 p.m., at the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment's Fallen Soldier Memorial and Memorial Grove on Rose Barracks.

Huddle up

Join USAG Grafenwoehr leaders for the next Community Huddle, Thursday, May 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Tower View Restaurant, Main Post, Bldg. 209.

Index

Opinion Editorial	2
News	3-8, 21
Strength in Diversity	6
Medical	9
What's Happening	10-11
Travel	13
Movies	26
AAFES	27

Vilseck Volksfest



Counterclockwise from top: A cowboy rides a wild horse and tries to stay on for eight seconds during the rodeo at the Vilseck German-American Volksfest, May 13. Likewise, 8-year-old Justin Horn hangs on tight as a mechanical bull attempts to buck him off, and family members fly high on the swings. Despite the rain, hundreds of Soldiers and community members attended the four-day event.

Photos by Molly Hayden



‘Conquerors’ return as visitors

11th Armored veterans revisit areas they ‘took’ during World War II

Story and photo by
Sgt. Charles D. Crail
*172nd Infantry Brigade
Public Affairs*

When the tankers of the 11th Armored Division tested out the Wehrmacht Training Center at Grafenwoehr, Germany, they said it brought back memories of the training areas where they first prepared for war back in America.

Hardly could they imagine what they would later see when they returned to watch an Army training demonstration 65 years later on their final Return to Europe tour, at Grafenwoehr, May 5.

World War II veterans, families and

friends of the 11th Armored Division Association began their tour by meeting Soldiers who now train and live at the base the veterans once fought to capture from the Third Reich in April 1945.

They sat down for lunch with Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade who recently returned from a combat deployment to Iraq. Also present were Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment who are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan early this summer.

The Grafenwoehr dining facility served as the venue for Soldiers of the greatest generation to talk shop with Soldiers of the digital generation.

“Unlike when I joined,” said Joint Multinational Training Command’s Command Sgt. Maj. Darius A. Zagara, “every one of these Soldiers you have met today joined an Army at war. They knew when they volunteered that they would have a combat deployment within their first tour.”

The veterans demonstrated appreciation for the modern Soldiers’ service after watching a live fire exercise at range 118 conducted by the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 84th Infantry Regiment, 170th Inf. Bde., demonstrated movement-to-contact drills using the Interim Battle Area Complex. IBAX enables units to harness remote recording and data collection capabilities for use in after-action reviews.

When the recently retrained artillerymen of the 170th Inf. Bde. filed into the briefing room, the 11th Armored Division Association members immediately greeted them with a standing ovation.

The Soldiers bashfully accepted the praise, clearly confused by the role reversal. Their tasking had been to honor the veterans, not to be honored themselves.

See VETERANS, page 21

Strength in Diversity

Local senior selected as Presidential Scholar

Story and photo by
Molly Hayden
Staff Writer

Vilseck High School senior Darren Eldredge could easily write this article about himself.

As the valedictorian of his class, an Eagle Scout, accomplished soccer player and self-taught pianist, he excels at everything he attempts.

Recently, Eldredge was one of 141 students named as a 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholar. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selected students based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations, transcripts, community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

After a rigorous application process, Eldredge was selected as a Presidential Scholar from the American Abroad category, chosen at large.

“We are extremely proud of Darren. He has shown a commitment to excellence throughout his school career,” said Duane Werner, principal of Vilseck High School. “Darren brings credit to the (Department of Defense Education Activity) system and shows that our students can compete with the best of the best.”

The Presidential Scholars Program is one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students and obtainable by invitation only, according to the White House Commission.

So what sets Eldredge apart?

At the age of 17, he tells stories reminiscent of an old man. At such a young age, he’s managed to have a vast array of life experiences, both “once in a lifetime” opportunities including a childhood spent in Turkey and Italy, and the heart-wrenching twists of fate that cause a child to grow up fast, like losing an older sibling at a young age.

But Eldredge considers his life unique, which is what set him apart from 3,000 other applicants and gave him the edge when chosen as a finalist for the award.

See ELDREDGE, page 21



Eldredge

Free Soldier Show plays at Grafenwoehr, May 29

Story and photos by
Tim Hipps
FMWRC Public Affairs

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — “Soldier Show 27.0” is the working concept of the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show, an “entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier” song-and-dance production. This year’s edition revolves around current social-media phenomena.

“It’s the 27th year and it’s a new version, just like a new version of a computer program, but it’s built on the foundations of all the past versions,” Soldier Show Production Director Victor Hurtado said. “Basical-

ly, it’s like a computer screen. When you walk in, you’ll see the desktop, and all of the transitions are like Facebook or Google with a PDF.”

The 2010 Soldier Show schedule features 101 performances at 53 venues, including eight stops in Germany. The tour began April 23 at Wallace Theater on Fort Belvoir, home of the Army Entertainment Division. Two separate free performances are scheduled for May 29, 4 & 7:30 p.m., at Grafenwoehr’s Tower Theater.

Soldier Show regulars might recognize a few familiar-looking faces because three siblings of 2004 Soldier Show

performers are among this season’s cast: Spc. Philip Plasterer, Spc. Brian McAleese-Jergins and 2nd Lt. Katherine Melcher. And Sgt. Kevin Cherry, another 2004 performer, returns for his second go-round with the Soldier Show.

In addition to much ado about keeping it all in the family, the 2004 and 2010 themes somewhat resemble each other. The previous show revolved around how deployed Soldiers kept in touch with loved ones via cell phones and e-mail. Those communication devices have since been supplemented by faster-moving and farther-

See SHOW, page 21



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carter sings “Indestructible” alongside guitarist Spc. David Palmer during a rehearsal for the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show at Wallace Theater on Fort Belvoir, Va.



Bavarian News

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr
Col. Chris Sorenson

Public Affairs Officer
Kim Gillespie
kim.c.gillespie@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-8103, CIV 09641-83-8103

Managing Editor
Jeremy S. Buddemeier
jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113

Assistant Editor
Trecia A. Wilson
trecia.wilson@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-7775, CIV 09641-83-7775

Grafenwoehr Correspondent
Molly Hayden
molly.hayden@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-8886, CIV 09641-83-8886

Garmisch Correspondent
John Reese
william.john.reese@eur.army.mil
DSN 440-3701, CIV 08821-750-3701

Schweinfurt Correspondents
Eva Bergmann & Nathan Van Schaik
eva.nina.bergmann@eur.army.mil
nathan.vanschaik@eur.army.mil
DSN 354-1400, CIV 09721-96-1400

Hohenfels Correspondent
Kristin Bradley
kristin.bradley@eur.army.mil
DSN 466-4917, CIV 09472-83-4917

Ansbach Correspondent
Ronald Toland
ron.toland@eur.army.mil
DSN 468-1600, CIV 09811-83-1600

Advertising: Retail advertising and classifieds, www.milcom.de
ads@milcom.de

Address: U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs
Attn: Bavarian News
Unit 28130, APO AE 09114

We want to hear from you!
The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil. Prior coordination is mandatory.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is noon on Tuesday, the week prior to the publication date. Publication dates can be found at www.milcom.de.

All editorial content is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office.

The *Bavarian News* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Bavarian News* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Army.

The *Bavarian News* is published every two weeks by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Army under exclusive written contract with U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr. The newspaper has a printed circulation of 9,800.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army or Milcom Advertising Agency of the products or services advertised.

Water Tower art by Dane Gray

IT brings Soldiers, families together

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Installation Management Community is committed to leveraging the power of technology to expand our communication capabilities and enhance our ability to serve and support Soldiers, civilians and families. In today's world, IT is at the core of all we do at work, at home, and at play. Smaller, more powerful and less expensive IT products hit the market every day. Becoming savvy with state-of-the-art technology helps us work smarter, learn more efficiently, and play harder.

Over the past six months, I have visited many garrisons, listening to many members of the Army family to better understand how they prefer to receive information and communicate. Because more than 75 percent communicate and retrieve information through the Internet and other electronic means, I now communicate through my Facebook page and the IMCOM Twitter, Flickr and YouTube sites. This implements the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Feb. 25, 2010, memorandum that requires DOD unclassified networks be configured for Internet-based capabilities like YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and Google Apps.

Because IT is so critical to how we do business and communicate, I have made IT one of the focus areas of the Services and Infrastructure Core Enterprise (SICE) in my role as co-lead of the SICE board. SICE is a collaborative and cross-functional team of more than 15 commands, organizations and staff offices



we deliver on our promises of the Army Family Covenant and Army Community Covenant.

The most important components of IT – telecommunications, information assurance (IA) and data processing – tie into every aspect of installation management. We use telecommunications to connect Soldiers to their families by video teleconference when they deploy. Tech-smart Soldiers and family members use it when they “tweet” to friends and family through their Twitter accounts.

Information assurance (IA) measures and practices reduce risk and ensure our communication and information remain secure from malicious attacks. IA enables Soldiers and civilians to communicate with government-issued Blackberries, knowing conversations are secure from unauthorized individuals.

Most of us use data processing to manage our bits

formed to develop solutions to Armywide challenges.

Presently, the SICE team is developing plans to modernize and standardize IT services on Army installations. The results will enhance delivery of IT in the deployment process, training and programs such as Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. Also, look for improved IT to lead to improvements on how

and bytes of information each day when we work on desktop computers, laptops, scanners and copiers. And, cell phones may be the most powerful device of all since they incorporate all three of these IT components.

Every day, the universe of IT products expands. Mobile handheld devices like the current generation of smart phones open up possibilities only dreamed of a few years ago. The convergence of cell phones, digital cameras, music players, GPS, video games, camcorders, electronic book readers and mobile Web browsers rapidly change how we communicate and interact.

As the IMCOM commander, I am dedicated to embracing these new, exciting technologies and adapting them to continue to be ahead of the curve in supporting Soldier, civilian and family well-being and mission readiness. Each generation of Soldiers brings a valuable, new perspective to the Army. It is up to us to stay in step with communication capabilities that are in synch with a quality of life commensurate with service.

We Are the Army's Home.

*Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Commander, Installation
Management Command*

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Garrison reaches out to community

Communicating across our diverse community to provide updates and information and responding to questions and comments is the key to any successful team. Not only does the Grafenwoehr Military Community continue to grow, we also have large numbers of transient Soldiers training at any given time, continuous deployments and redeployments of tenant units, and the normal Permanent Change of Stations. A constantly changing population in itself presents a challenge, but we also have diverse demographics. Single Soldiers, Soldiers and family members, Department of the Army civilians, local national employees, contractors and retirees of various backgrounds, experiences and ages make our community unique.

Because the population is so diverse, there is no single means of communication that everyone favors. That means we must use as many communication resources as possible and continue to find innovative ways to reach everyone.

The convenience of the Internet and other electronic means make it one of the fastest and most popular ways to receive information and communicate. Now that U.S. Army Europe has approved the use of Facebook and Twitter, we have established a presence on both.

You can find our Facebook page by typing “Garrison Grafenwoehr” in the Facebook search box or through a link



on our garrison Web site. We'll keep our friends posted on activities and events, and include some photos, so whether you are a regular Facebook user or new to the site, it's an easy and convenient way to stay

up-to-date and provide us feedback. Also, our Flickr site is still available at www.flickr.com/photos/usaggrafenwoehr.

We will also be tweeting regular messages through our Twitter site at <http://twitter.com/USAGGraf>. Become a follower and learn more about our community and its services.

Providing services and activities to our Soldiers and family members is the sole purpose of MWR, and they have introduced a new Web site that provides all its resources in one location. The site, www.grafenwoehrmwr.com, lets you do everything from downloading your application for tax relief and e-mail instructions to order VAT Forms, to its new WebTrac function. WebTrac allows you to access a wide range of sports, recreation and child/youth programs and services offered by Army garrisons worldwide. You can sign up for selected sports,

classes or trips and tours; purchase tickets, reserve tee times, courts, facilities or equipment; initiate a new child care registration; or make payments on your MWR account.

This is designed to make your life in the Army family easier, so please give it a try.

Our MWR is also tweeting daily, so be sure to follow at <http://twitter.com/GrafenwoehrMWR>.

Social media takes communication to another level, but it does come with some responsibility. While not mandatory, the Army has established Social Network Sites training on the AKO Web site: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/18595064>. The training is highly recommended to help prevent identity theft and other problems that can be encountered when using these Internet-based technologies.

The quality of life in the Grafenwoehr Military Community is enhanced by using Information Technology to help improve your access to our products and services. It's great to be at Graf! Army Strong!

*Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

CSM CORNER



Safety paramount for child supervision

As warmer weather permits, more and more parents and child care providers are allowing children to go outside to play and it's a great time for use up that pent-up energy they've had to stifle all winter.

I am a firm believer in children getting up from in front of the television to go outside and play, but this doesn't mean they should be running through the neighborhood unsupervised. Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to the children to watch over them and ensure their safety. There are a number of physical hazards on post that could easily cause traumatic or fatal injuries.

Our garrison child supervision policy is based on the Department of the Army Installation Management Command – Europe Region memorandum for Soldiers, Civilian Employees and Family Members in the Army in Europe as established by IMCOM Director Diane Devens, April 12.

It's important to remember that al-



though some children seem more mature than others, they are still children and don't have the common sense about safety that adults have learned from experience.

The policy states in section 2, “Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children. Failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use good judgment and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision the child requires.”

“Parents should not give the degree of self-management and responsibility allowed in this guidance to children with an attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), behavioral problems, developmental delay, impulsivity, psychiatric problems or other impairments.”

This is a critical section of the policy because parents and caregivers will follow this policy in determining if their older child is allowed to supervise younger children.

The chart stipulates the age a child is permitted to supervise another child based on assessments of ability levels

of average children their age. Children with ADD or ADHD don't fit the average child's ability to supervise because of their inability to pay attention and focus for extended periods of time. Supervision means paying attention.

Per the policy, “children in the fifth-grade and below will have adult supervision at all times except as indicated in table 1 under the “May Be Left Outside Unattended (Including Playing)” and “May Be Left Unattended in a Car” columns.”

This policy also provides complete guidelines directing caregivers what ages must be supervised and exactly how they must be supervised. Please read this policy and be aware of where your children are and what they are doing. You won't regret it.

The policy is available online at <https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/CM2010-017.htm>.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berries
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Spouse makes PCSing look easy

by Molly Blake
CincHouse.com

Orchestrating a cross-country move for two toddlers, one husband, one dog and one goldfish does not sound easy, but veteran spouse Maryanna Annibale says most of the hard work is already behind her.

“I start planning months in advance,” she said.

The Annibale family is gearing up for a PCS, along with thousands of other military folks, and because the Marine Corps spouse has already cleaned out closets, cupboards and junk drawers, she is now tackling the details by arranging pooch-friendly hotels, visits with friends and mini excursions to spice up their fourth move.

“Sightseeing and finding a zoo or aquarium that the children will enjoy is part of the planning,” said Annibale. “But it's also a great way to keep them active and help burn off energy during long days on the road.”

In the final weeks before the move, Annibale says she also lays out all the toiletries, clothes and medicine that her family will need for the nine-day road trip from Arizona to Washington D.C.

Here are a few other tips and suggestions for the final weeks before your PCS:

Arrange to stay at a friend's house or book a hotel on the days the packers are at your house and book a hotel room near your new post.

Map out the drive to your new duty station. On-base lodging is always a good bet and utilizing Web sites like www.pcs-lodging.com (twitter handle: @pcslodging) and Triple A's TripTik will help you plan the route, book hotels, organize outings and even find the cheapest gas along the way. Pet owners should make sure hotels or base lodges are fur-friendly before booking.

Check your vehicles' tires, fluid levels and oil.

Take a break from Costco and Sam's Club. That box of 250 granola bars may not be so appetizing after roasting in your car for two weeks. Now is also a good time to start eating and cooking your way through the pantry. Channel your inner Julia Child

See PCS, page 21

JMTC NCOs strengthen ties in Slovenia

Story and photos by
Sgt. Maj. Rodney Williams
7th U.S. Army JMTC Public Affairs

POLJCE, Slovenia – Nearly 50 senior Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) assigned to the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) participated in a weeklong staff ride in the country of Slovenia, recently. The JMTC strives to train leaders in operationally relevant military and cultural knowledge to support the building of tomorrow’s coalitions.

It was another opportunity for U.S. Army senior NCOs to share lessons learned with their Slovenian counterparts, who regularly train at JMTC facilities. On numerous occasions, the Slovenian army plays an integral role in replicating the complexities of working as a coalition by acting as the Afghan National Army during mission readiness exercises at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels, Germany.

The staff ride served to further enhance the already outstanding relationship built during joint training and to strengthen the knowledge base of the NCO corps.

One of the objectives of the staff ride was to take a look at the events surrounding the “Slovenian War of Independence,” also known as the Ten-Day War, which actually began June 25, 1991, when Slovenia first declared its independence. Senior NCOs of JMTC were afforded the opportunity to study a fairly recent European conflict on the actual terrain where the events took place.

“The last (JMTC) staff ride took place in the Czech Republic, but we wanted something a little bit more contemporary,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Kennedy, JMTC operations sergeant major. “The idea was to look at something more modern, and look at it in a country that we would like to do it in.”

As more units prepare to deploy to Afghanistan, an extremely mountainous country, the insight gained from the staff ride can be applied to future training programs at the JMTC.

The staff ride began with a Slovenian overview of the Ten-Day War provided by the curator and staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces Military Museum. Participants discussed some of the particulars and unknowns about some of the events which led up to the Ten-Day war. As an added bonus, one of the actual Slovenian unit commanders at the time of the war addressed the crowd and spoke about his experiences.

The staff ride also presented an opportunity for the senior NCO leaders to exchange information and talk about experiences to help establish the way ahead for both armies. One particular briefing highlighted that sharing of information. A group of first sergeants from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, based out of Hohenfels, Germany, passed along some of their most recent experiences and lessons learned from Afghanistan.

“My objective was to have the Slovenian senior NCOs leave with a better understanding of the enemy that they will be facing when their army takes on the mission they have now assumed,” said Bravo Company’s 1st Sgt. Chris Weiskittel. “I wanted them to understand that the enemy in Afghanistan is very different from that in Iraq.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Igor Tomasic, sergeant major of the Slovenian Armed Forces, said the information he learned by talking with Weiskittel will help the Slovenian army when it sends troops to Afghanistan this summer.



(From left) Command Sgts. Maj. Janez Smid, Slovenian Army FORSCOM; Michael Boom, senior enlisted observer for the Warhog team at the JMRC; Paul Thompson, senior enlisted observer for the Mustang team at the JMRC; Hu Rhodes, commandant of the 7th Army NCO Academy Warrior Leader Course; and Marko Pogorevc, Slovenian Center of Excellence for Mountain Warfare, navigate across the river during the mountain adventure race in Slovenia for the JMTC senior NCO staff ride.

Securing key terrain was very important for Weiskittel’s unit during its deployment and ultimately paved the way for its success. This battlefield maneuver was also important for Slovenians during the Ten-Day War.

In addition to sharing information about training, education and deployment experiences, senior JMTC NCOs took the opportunity to do something they don’t do very often. Each NCO was assigned to a seven- or eight-member team along with an instructor from the Slovenian Armed Forces Center of Excellence for Mountain Warfare.

Each team competed to complete the six events of the mountain adventure race the quickest. Events included crossing a river in a raft, rappelling, crossing a mountain ridge, and transporting an injured person. While navigating through these events, participants climbed up and down several mountains.

“What the JMTC senior NCOs participated in today, normally would take three days,” said Slovenian Center of Excellence for Mountain Warfare Command Sgt. Maj. Marko Pogorevc. “The first day would be to get familiar with the terrain, the second day to get used to the gear, and the third day to actually go through the course.”

The race for time was just an added incentive. The real sense of accomplishment was felt by a team working together and successfully completing the course.

“With the JMTC the Slovenian army already has an established relationship both on a professional and personal level,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Janez Smid, the Slovenian army FORSCOM command sergeant major. “The relationship is already excellent, but this event will help us improve upon that relationship.”

As the only place in the U.S. Army that regularly trains with multinational partners, the



Command Sgt. Maj. Darieus ZaGara, JMTC command sergeant major, rappels down the side of a cliff during the Mountain Adventure Race in Slovenia.

JMTC understands the importance of building partner capacity prior to deployment as part of a coalition.

“They (Slovenian soldiers) help us a lot with JMRC rotations, and we do a lot of training for them,” Kennedy said. “We train with the Slovenians side-by-side and now there is a personal side where we spent time with them. We walked away being friends and not just part of a coalition and that goes a long way.”

Scout shares love of reading with local students

Story and photo by
Molly Hayden
Staff Writer

Daniel Pippin understands the importance of reading. Whether it’s reading for education or reading for fun, the 14-year-old finds comfort in the books around him.

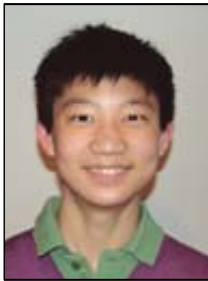
“I wanted to pass this on to other students,” said Pippin.

Now a ninth-grader at Vilseck High School, Pippin reminisced of his middle school days, oh so long ago, during a recent interview.

“For five years I went to a German school,” said Pippin. “And I noticed in our English class we only had textbooks. I was inspired to do something about that when my Eagle Scout project came along.”

The veteran Boy Scout collected English fiction and nonfiction books for his project that he later delivered to the Dreifaltigkeits-Grundschule, the elementary school in which his younger brother, Christopher, currently attends.

Pippin set up donation boxes in various locations around Main Post and Rose Barracks and asked his teachers and fellow high school students to aid in his quest of collecting 300 books for German students.



“This project helped me understand that life is about selfless service to your community and country. That is what makes the world a better place.”

Daniel Pippin, Eagle Scout, Age 14

Much to his surprise, the community outpour well exceeded his expectations.

“I collected more than 1,500 books in less than three months,” boasted Pippin proudly.

Pippin’s father, Dave, shared his son’s pride. “(Daniel) saw a real need in the German school and came up with a great project that benefits both communities, American and German,” said Dave. “He showed great maturity dealing with two cultures and coordinating multiple efforts to ensure completion.”

The excess books collected allowed Pippin to share the wealth, adding his alma mater to the drop-off list. The Gregor-Mendel Gymnasium in Amberg, Germany, was a surprise recipient of more than 250 books.

Schools were especially grateful for the donations and have already put the books to good use, according to Pippin.

“The students were really happy and the little kids were surprised,” said Pippin. “It was a great project because everyone needs books.”

Through the success of his Eagle Scout project, Pippin brought the gift of imagination and storytelling to fellow students and learned a valuable lesson on benevolence.

“Boy Scouts helps you build character and teaches you about helping others,” said Pippin. “This project helped me understand that life is about selfless service to your community and country. That is what makes the world a better place.”

100

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA

1910

2010

Grafenwoehr

TRAINING AREA

100 YEARS

By Michael Beaton, JMTC Public Affairs

Grafenwoehr:

The last stop for the ‘Dora’

During the summer of 1945, Gen. George Patton, Bavaria’s military governor at the time, flew into the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) area to see the “Dora,” the most powerful and certainly the largest gun ever produced in the history of warfare.

Anticipating war in the 1930s, the Dora was approved and rushed into production by Adolf Hitler personally.

Hitler views the Dora prior to WWII.

Named after the wife of the engineer who designed and built her in 1937, the “Dora” could only be moved by rail and required a crew of 250 to assemble and fire it, once it arrived at its destination.

The Dora was capable of accurately throwing a seven-ton shell 30 miles, which it did at the Battle of Stalingrad, the battle that stopped the German Blitzkrieg, a tactic based on speed and surprise, on the Russian front August 1942.

Once the German forces entered Stalingrad, and presumed the city taken, “Dora” was moved to points along the Russian front, where it served until the final retreat of the German Army in 1944.

“Dora” was then sent to Grafenwoehr – the nearest secure refuge from the eastern front. By the time U.S. forces arrived, it was on an abandoned railway on the outskirts of the GTA, her barrel was cracked and destroyed with explosive charges by its German crew, rendering it useless in the hands of the Allies.

At the end of its career, as a spoil of war, “the Dora” was a great oddity, but totally useless to her captors.

Here comes trouble: the ‘Dora’ on the Russian front, 1943

During Patton’s visit to “the Dora,” one has a final glimpse of the general considering the fate of the Dora (Patton would die four months later in Mannheim, Germany) - and he seems thoughtful as he walks around the gun. Unfortunately, there is no record of what one of the U.S. Army’s greatest generals thought of the end of the Dora, the world’s greatest combat artillery gun.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LIST OF
UPCOMING COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL

Customers determine focus of IMCOM survey

Leaders to use online survey to shape services in region, conform to customers' needs

by Tom Saunders
IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – People who have taken customer surveys only to be left wondering if anyone received their feedback can rest assured; if they take the Installation Management Command Customer Service Assessment, leaders in IMCOM are paying attention.

The Customer Service Assessment is an online annual survey that allows individuals to rate the performance and importance of garrison services, according to Dawn Brlecic, IMCOM-Europe Customer Management Services program manager.

In fact, customers in Europe who took the CSA last fall are helping to shape the services IMCOM-Europe leaders provide to Soldiers, families and civilians.

“IMCOM-Europe cares about continuing to provide the best service possible to Soldiers, families and civilians,” Brlecic explained. “By using CSA data, we can help garrison and region leadership understand how customers rated the importance and performance of services in the region and help them focus their efforts on areas rated the lowest in performance and the highest in importance. The customer, in effect, tells leadership where to focus its efforts.”

The Customer Service Assessment is an



Courtesy photo

The IMCOM Customer Service Assessment is an online annual survey that allows individuals to rate the performance and importance of garrison services.

annual IMCOM-wide initiative conducted by Customer Management Services. Last year's 2009 CSA survey was the second survey conducted IMCOM-wide, and the first year all 17 garrisons in Europe participated, according to

Brlecic. The August 2010 CSA goal is to increase participation in an effort to better represent Europe's customer base.

Brlecic said the upcoming survey will help leadership gather information to conduct trend

analysis, thereby determining if improvements have had the intended effect and identifying new areas for improvement and best practices.

The 2009 CSA Europe Region data showed that customers rated fire/emergency services, religious services, and administrative services as very important and top performing, while Army Family Housing, unaccompanied personnel housing, and pest control were very important areas needing improvement. Others services requiring garrison leadership attention were military personnel services, claims, and transportation services.

“Customers voiced their concerns about Army Family Housing and as a direct result IMCOM-Europe leadership has organized a very specific housing survey to provide feedback on satisfaction with reconfigured quarters. Leadership will gather information about how families rate the amenities both inside the quarters and the outside living area,” said Brlecic.

Other improvements come in many forms, said Brlecic, who explained that sometimes customer dissatisfaction is simply due to service providers not being properly trained to provide the service people expect. Results of the survey may identify professional development opportunities to improve overall services.

The upcoming survey will build on previous survey data and help IMCOM-Europe officials ensure they're on track in meeting customer expectations.

“It's very important that customers realize that we hear them, and we're taking action based on their feedback,” said Brlecic. “The upcoming survey in August gives every customer an opportunity to tell leadership how they feel.”



It's a gas

Grafenwoehr Elementary School students listen as Werner Ohla, U.S. Army Grafenwoehr's Directorate of Public Works, uses a mini heating plant model to describe the path natural gas takes from Russia to Grafenwoehr to produce heat and hot water for their schools and homes.

About 30 elementary school students toured Grafenwoehr's heating plant, May 6, and learned firsthand how their homes are heated.

These tours are frequently arranged to increase students' awareness about using energy efficiently, reducing greenhouse gases and lowering the garrison's energy costs.

Photo by Aref M. Arianta

Spotlight on Education



Name: Jamie Wert

What grade and subject do you teach? Kindergarten.

Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

How long have you been a teacher? 22 years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I am energized by the enthusiasm for learning that is experienced by both the students (and teacher) in a classroom. We could power New York City with the energy generated in kindergarten. Learning is powerful magic!

What advice can you give students to help them succeed?

Be your best in everything you do. Be the best reader, best mathematician, best scientist, best artist and best friend. If you do your best, you will succeed.

Quick degrees can cost more in long run

Degrees must be nationally or regionally accredited to count for Soldiers' promotion points

by Laura Peck
USAG Grafenwoehr Education Center

Soldiers, beware of the pitfalls of fraudulent diplomas or transcripts that may be a part of your official military personnel file and from which you have received promotion points. Results can be devastating to your career to include reduction in rank or adverse administrative action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

With the advent of online courses, diploma mills have sprung up in numerous states, and uninformed Soldiers may unwittingly sign up for courses or programs that they believe will assist them in advancing their career. Some schools often advertise that they are accredited, but the source of accreditation is not recognized by the U. S. Department of Education.

What are diploma or degree mills? Simply put, diploma mills are schools that offer certificates, degrees or diplomas for a fee but are not recognized by the Department of Education. They often advertise themselves as a legitimate college, university or school and, as a result, many individuals fall victim to the allure of a quick, sometimes inexpensive, credential or degree. These schools often use names similar to bonafide colleges and universities which may

further confuse the consumer.

Army tuition assistance (TA) is not authorized for schools that do not meet the definition of national or regional accreditation, yet Soldiers often choose to pay out-of-pocket for a diploma, degree or college course with the expectation that they will receive promotion points. Promotion points are not authorized for any school that is not nationally or regionally accredited. Thus, any credential obtained from a school that does not meet this criterion is not authorized to be posted to a Soldier's official personnel file.

Vilseck Education Center personnel report that Soldiers taking courses through the GoArmyEd Web site need not worry. The Department of Army has ensured all colleges and universities listed in the portal are nationally or regionally accredited. Education staff also caution that civilians fall prey to diploma mills as well and should be wary if a diploma or degree sounds too good to be true.

Robert Perkins, chief of the Grafenwoehr Military Personnel Division, has seen numerous cases in which Soldiers have been demoted or received adverse action as a result of knowingly presenting fraudulent documents to be added to their records. He strongly encourages all Soldiers to ask questions if there is any doubt about the validity of their diploma.

According to Perkins, a dead giveaway for a diploma mill is a school that doesn't require studying, tests or essays, or the school boasts of its accreditation as fully, nationally or world-

wide accreditation, but has no legitimate accreditation.

Also, Perkins said diploma mill schools may rely on 'portfolio assessments' or 'life experience,' and the school advertises through e-mail messages sent to millions of recipients.

“In the end, Soldiers are responsible for ensuring that their credentials submitted for promotion points are from an accredited institution,” Perkins said. “The best defense against diploma mills for Soldiers is Army Education centers. Soldiers are encouraged to contact their local education center or their personnel section if they have any questions about a school they have attended.”

Unfortunately, diploma mills continue to spread and grow especially in states lacking strict laws or controls regarding accreditation. Thus, Soldiers can be prime targets. Appropriate procedures are in place for Soldiers to remove any suspect degree from their official records. Soldiers are encouraged to contact their military personnel center or legal office for additional guidance.

An excellent resource online to research accreditation is the U. S. Department of Education's Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs Web site: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>.

For more information, contact your local education center.

Editor's Note: Laura Peck is the garrison education services officer for the Army Continuing Education System.

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

Wolf pack trains with Panzer battalion

by Sgt. Jerry Wilson
2SCR Public Affairs

Troopers from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, spent a week at the Grafenwoehr Training Area working with their partners from the 104th Panzer Battalion on various infantry operations during Combined Partnership 2010. The 104th is currently designated as the NATO Operational Reserve Force.

“Combined Partnership 2010 was a tremendous exercise,” said 3rd Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Bryan Denny, “not just in it was the first squadron-level exercise between 2SCR and 12th Panzer, but it provided an opportunity for us to learn from a tank battalion that has had two operational deployments to Afghanistan.”

“Where as we normally see their tankers as professionals of their armored force leading the fight from the tops of their Leopards,” he said. “It’s important to remember that they have dismounted twice and conducted operations in northern Afghanistan.”

“In turn when they look at us they see us as professional infantrymen, Cavalrymen, capable of taking the fight to the enemy on the ground.”

“The purpose of the exercise was two-fold,” said Maj. Matt Brown, 3-2nd Cav. Regt. executive officer. “First was to ready the NATO ORF Battalion and 3rd Squadron for operational deployments worldwide; second was to reinforce the mutual partnership we have had with the 104th for almost a year now.”

According to Brown, the exercise was broken down into three separate company level training exercises as well as a reserve mission. Three German coys, or companies, conducted stability and counterinsurgency operations in a variety of environments and scenarios for a 36-hour period.

During its reserve mission, each unit experienced joint operations by conducting a cordon and search operation while having a Stryker company attached to it.



Photo by Ralph Zwilling

A Stryker vehicle rolls into action alongside its German counterparts during Combined Partnership 2010 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Troopers from the Wolf pack also acted as observer controllers for the exercise, helping their German counterparts refine dismount tactics. Brown also said 3-2nd Cav. Regt. was involved heavily in creating the scenarios for the exercise in collaboration with the 12th Panzer Command.

“We had initial guidance from the 12th Panzer commander in terms of what kind of scenarios we wanted to develop,” Brown said. “We then got together during three different planning conferences both in Amberg and Vilseck to discuss the specifics.”

“Everybody brought something to the table

in preparation for this,” he continued. “From the exercise control piece to the execution piece, this has been a combined effort at every echelon.”

According to 104th Panzer Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Norbert Kopf, this cooperation and team building is at the center of the exercise.

“This is another step in our mutual understanding and project partnership,” Kopf said. “I have done this for many years and it is one of the most challenging and beautiful things, to learn from people from other nations.”

“I am hoping my Soldiers take away from

“My intent is not to give you the feeling that you are isolated here on your post with its fence around it, but you are living here in our country and I want you to love my country.”

Lt. Col. Norbert Kopf
104th Panzer Battalion Commander

this as a look over the fence,” Kopf continued. “To see how Soldiers from other nations are doing certain things, what type of weapons they carry, how do they use these weapons and what are their tactics.”

Kopf also said he wants his Soldiers to get to know their American counterparts on a personal level. He feels it is important for his troops to build these kinds of friendships with the men they will fight with on the battlefield.

“My intent is not to give you the feeling that you are isolated here on your post with its fence around it,” he said, “but you are living here in our country and I want you to love my country. This is what we try to reach step by step in our project partnership.”

Both the Wolf pack and the Panzers agreed that the exercise was a great opportunity to learn from each other and establish new friendships that will last for many years to come.

Strength in Diversity

Air Force brat becomes an Army spouse

by Jennifer Walsh
BMEDDAC Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – Growing up, Yolanda Denman was your average child. Well, your average military child.

“I was raised partially in Spain as well as in Italy, Maine, Montana and so many other places,” Denman said. “I went to many different schools and when my dad retired from the Air Force we settled in Spain.”

Eventually, her dad took a job as a Department of the Army civilian at Fort Campbell, Ky. Denman decided to move with her family and attend nearby Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn. Little did she know this would lead to her future as an Army spouse.

We’re college sweethearts, she said of her husband, Col. Patrick Denman.

“I was pledging a sorority and I was in the university center with some friends when he saw me go by,” Denman said. “He sent me the nicest card. It said ‘Hey, my name is Patrick and I’d like to invite you out for dinner.’ He brought flowers. The rest is history.”

Twenty years later, Denman finds herself living in Schweinfurt, Germany, married to the commander of the Schweinfurt Health Clinic. She is her husband’s right-hand woman, a member of the Patient and Family-Centered Care committee and the family readiness group leader for the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

“I like to think the Army Medical Department is one of the most diverse organizations in the Army,” she said. “Just think of some of the education levels – high school, college, post graduate – and skills – licensed providers, nurses and medics. In our clinic alone, we are Hindus, Muslims and Christians. I am honored to be a small part of such a great team and for me to represent our families is important. I take it very seriously.”

She remembers how it was for her mother as an Air Force spouse. Her mother is from Spain and had to learn English. Denman grew up, as so many military children do, speaking two languages. Her mother was also a military spouse during the Vietnam War.

“We’ve come a long way in terms of what we do for our families,” said Denman. “Families today have a voice. My mother didn’t quite have the same experience. But it’s forever changing and I hope that tomorrow will be better for future spouses.”

Denman said one of the biggest perks of be-



Courtesy photo

Yolanda Denman, left, speaks with Masako Berthold, a member of the Schweinfurt Health Clinic Family Readiness Group, during a baby shower. Denman’s experiences while growing up as a military child made her transition to a military spouse easier.

ing an Army spouse is the travel. Denman has lived in many parts of the world including tours in Korea, Europe and the United States. You get to see different cultures and it makes you a stronger person, she said. Even the places she didn’t love so much had something special to offer.

“The Army leads you to many interesting things,” Denman said. “Some years ago I had an opportunity to work for the Royal Saudi Arabian Land Forces while at Fort Knox. I was an executive administrator and learned a lot about the Saudi culture. I even got to drive an Abrams tank.”

Although the lifestyle she chose of packing up and making new friends every couple of years is not one she thinks many non-military people are familiar with, it’s one she said she wouldn’t trade.

“I feel incredibly lucky to have been a part of the military all of my life,” Denman said. “I’ve had an opportunity to make friends from so many backgrounds, and learn so much, it’s just fantastic. When I compare myself to people who haven’t been in the military, they may really have to seek out diversity. In the Army, it’s the standard. It’s the benchmark of our success. It’s who we are.”

Jennifer Mezzomo-Dempsey, registered nurse, checks the vital signs of Spc. Brandon Lowe at the Bamberg Health Clinic. As a first-generation American born to immigrant parents from Brazil and Cuba, Mezzomo-Dempsey uses her background and language skills to help patients feel more at ease at the clinic.

Photo by Ashley Bateman



Trilingual nurse makes patients feel at home

by Jennifer Walsh
BMEDDAC Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany – The U.S. Army is a melting pot of nationalities. Within this pot there are different languages, cultures and traditions. Jennifer Mezzomo-Dempsey uses her gift of Spanish and Portuguese languages to keep her culture alive in Bamberg, Germany.

“There are many Hispanic wives and patients here that feel more comfortable speaking their native language,” said Mezzomo-Dempsey, a registered nurse who works at the Bamberg Army Health Clinic. “I am able to accommodate and translate for every nurse and doctor here at the clinic. And I have become a resource for people in the community that struggle with the English language.”

Dempsey is a first-generation American born to immigrant parents from Brazil and Cuba. She was born in Queens, N.Y., but grew up in Miami, an experience she said helped her adapt to living in Europe.

“Miami offered a very diverse culture with subcultures from many different countries,” she said. “This allowed me to learn to live and work with different customs and lifestyles. Moving to Europe was easy since I was already used to adapting to different people and environments.”

Although she works in Army health care, her first exposure to the U.S. Army was in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit Miami.

“There were several National Guard units

helping with recovery,” Mezzomo-Dempsey said. “I volunteered in Homestead to help feed the homeless and the National Guard was there doing the same.”

Years later, she and her husband decided it was time for a career change and they looked into working for the Army in Europe.

“My husband is active-reserve and had been stationed in Germany two times before,” she said. “We really like Germany and decided this is where we should come. And working for the Army is a great way of supporting troops and the mission during wartime.”

Mezzomo-Dempsey works not only as a registered nurse, but also as a team lead; as the co-immunization nurse; the co-Exceptional Family Member Program nurse; the pediatric leader; and the occupational health nurse. Although she wears many hats, she said it’s a family effort in the clinic.

“I am able to work with a diverse group of people that truly care about their customers,” she said.

“An Army nurse, whether military or civilian, is part of a family. This family goes above and beyond to ensure high quality care.”

Overall, Mezzomo-Dempsey said she finds many benefits from living in Europe.

“I love working in Europe,” she said. “The cultural diversity within the Army and living in a culture outside of my comfort zone has allowed me to grow personally and professionally.”

Alcohol abuse not a new problem

by Dr. Patricia LeDuc
U.S. Army Combat
Readiness/Safety Center

The debilitating effects of alcohol have been documented for centuries — a passage in an Egyptian papyrus from 1500 B.C. warned that drinking could lead to falls and broken bones. Ancient texts refer to fatal accidents, including fires, falls and drowning, caused by drunkenness.

From antiquity to the present, alcohol abuse has remained a major problem and it's amazing how things haven't changed much in the last couple thousand years. The main difference in alcohol-related accidents now is the physics. At the high speeds offered in modern vehicles, a collision or sudden impact exacts a terrible toll upon the human body.

Everyone knows drinking and driving is illegal and dangerous for the person behind the wheel, but what about the danger an impaired driver poses to passengers and others? In a number of off-duty accidents, Soldiers have lost their lives as passengers in cars driven by drunk drivers.

One of the most widely known safety campaigns — "Don't drink and drive" — has been reinforced throughout every level of the Army. Soldiers, families and civilians are urged not to drive after drinking and have been warned of the potential consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Okay, drunk driving — bad. Got it. But a message of equal importance is that performing just about any activity while impaired is also dangerous and can result in injury or death. Soldiers have wandered into the road or attempted to cross traffic while drunk and been hit by cars. Some were hit and killed by trains while walking on the tracks.

Sounds pretty impossible to most of us as trains are big and loud, but it has happened 11 times since 2000 and in one case, two people were hit by the same train. Of all 11 pedestrian/train collisions, only two were confirmed not to have involved alcohol.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in both 1997 and 2007, roughly half of all fatal pedestrian/traffic accidents involved alcohol. Of those aged 21 to 34, more than half (56 percent) involved a blood alcohol content of 0.10 or higher.

The Army has lost 56 Soldiers in off-duty pedestrian/traffic accidents since 2000 (excluding the train incidents). In these cases our statistics mirror those of the civilian sector, with 57 percent of Soldier pedestrian fatalities involving probable use of alcohol. All but three of these accidents occurred in the late evening,



after 10 p.m., or in the early morning, before 6 a.m.

You might wonder how so many people manage to get hit by cars. The answer lies in the effects of alcohol — diminished coordination and balance, and impaired attention and judgment. These impairments contribute to many types of accidental injuries, including motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents, drowning and burns. Of those Soldiers who had not been drinking, most (70 percent) were killed when they had car trouble or stopped to help someone on the road.

Alcohol is the most frequently abused drug throughout the world and related injuries are a major cause of morbidity and mortality. Alcohol intoxication, common in both social drinkers and alcoholics, profoundly impairs cognitive function and motor skills.

Ironically, many people feel a sense of mastery while they are drunk, leading them to believe that they can do anything as well as, if not better than, anyone else. This is evidenced in a number of accidents where Soldiers decided to try balcony climbing or hanging out of barracks windows while under the influence of alcohol. Many of these accidents did not have happy endings.

Since fiscal 2000, 41 Soldiers have died from off-duty falls, including five who fell from moving vehicles. Only nine of these Soldiers



were confirmed not to be under the influence and nearly all fell during the day while hiking or rock climbing. Data from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control show that excessive alcohol consumption is a significant factor in accidental deaths from falls in the civilian sector as well.

The NCIPC also reports that alcohol is involved in 40 to 50 percent of drowning deaths among young males. In addition, alcohol use is involved in about 50 percent of all deaths associated with water recreation, such as boating. Over the last decade, 87 Soldiers have drowned in swimming, boating, fishing and personal watercraft accidents. Of these fatalities, 92 percent were males, and 71 percent were 30 years old or younger. In those cases where alcohol use was examined, over 40 percent involved the use of alcohol.

Alcohol can impair our ability to do many things. That is why all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico impose a BAC limit of below 0.08 for driving. In addition, most states impose a BAC limit of either 0.08 or 0.10 or lower for boating, and all states have boating-under-the-influence laws.

Ancient Egyptians warned us that alcohol could make people act stupid. They described an excessive beer drinker's behavior as: "You think it proper to run down a wall and to break through the board gate; the people run away from you ... if you then talk, so from your mouth comes nonsense."

We've all seen someone behave that way when they drink too much. Intervene if you see a battle buddy about to misstep and possibly cause themselves or others harm. It usually doesn't take much effort to influence them to do the right thing. If you drink, take a cab. If you drink, don't go swimming. If you swim, wear a life jacket.

If you have a particularly argumentative friend who insists on acting stupid, call the police. It's better to have a ticked-off friend with a public intoxication ticket than to wake up the next morning, hung over, to find out your friend is now a statistic in a database.

Watching out for your buddies, even when you aren't on duty, is still part of the job description of "friend."

Puerto Rico to invalidate birth certificates as safety measure

by IMCOM Public Affairs
News Release

SAN ANTONIO — Recent legislative action by Puerto Rico will soon begin affecting U.S. service members from that territory.

In January, the government of Puerto Rico implemented a new law aimed at strengthening the issuance and usage of birth certificates to combat fraud and to protect the identity of all people born in Puerto Rico.

As of July 1, the law will invalidate all birth certificates issued before that date by the Puerto Rico Health Department, through its Vital Statistics Record Office.

Why such extraordinary measures? According to a fact sheet by the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, many common official and unofficial transactions on the island "unnecessarily" required the submission, retention and storage of birth certificates. Meaning: hundreds of thousands of original birth certificates were stored without adequate protection, "making them easy targets for theft."

Subsequently, many birth certificates have been stolen from schools and other institutions; sold on the black market for prices up to \$10,000 each; and used to illegally obtain passports, licenses and other government and private section documentation and benefits.

The administration fact sheet also noted that because of such problems, "approximately 40 percent of the passport fraud cases investigated by the State Department's Diplomatic Security Services in recent years involved birth certificates of people born in Puerto Rico." This left Puerto Rico-born citizens vulnerable to identity theft, ruined credit, stolen Social Security benefits and increased random security checks at airports.

Recognizing such enormous risks — including homeland and nation security concerns — the government of Puerto Rico took action to enhance the safekeeping of birth certificate data and to better protect the public from fraud and identify theft.

Accordingly, the Vital Statistics Record Office will begin issuing new birth certificates July 1, incorporating technology to limit the possibility of document forgery. Moreover, the new law will invalidate all birth certificates issued before July 1.

Does this mean that everyone will need to run out and request a new birth certificate immediately? No, said Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration officials. In fact, they recommend that only people who have a specific need for their birth certificate for official purposes, such as passport application, request a new document.

"Those people who want to obtain a copy of the new birth certificate for their records are encouraged to do so at a later date to prevent an unnecessary rush of applications," said officials, "and to ensure those individuals who have a specific need for the birth certificate are able to obtain them in a timely fashion."

For more information on how to apply for a birth certificate - including forms that will need to be completed - visit the Vital Statistics Record Office Web site at www.salud.gov.pr/Programas/RegistroDemografico/Pages/RequisitosparasolicituddeNacimiento.aspx.

Netzaberg storytime

Col. Chris Sorenson, garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, reads to children as part of the "Tell Me a Story" event at the Netza-berg Youth Center, May 2. More than 30 families with children ages 4-12 attended the event, which was created to empower military children by using literature and their own stories. After the reading, attendees discussed themes such as open mindedness and citizenship, and children enjoyed a snack and created a keepsake memory box. The next Tell Me a Story event will be held in the fall. The book will be "While You Are Away (Love, Lizzie)."

Photo by Shanan Carlson



Students have chance encounter on Flossenburg field trip

Story and photo by
Brian Swenty
Vilseck High School

More than 40 Vilseck High School 10th-graders from an integrated English and Social Studies class had an unexpected encounter during their field trip to the Flossenburg Concentration Camp Memorial, recently.

During their somber trip through the church built as a memorial to the dead who passed through those "Arbeit Macht Frei" gates, students happened upon an elderly gentleman who had been tagging near their tour group earlier. Many thought he might have been a survivor of the concentration camp.

After the group left the church, I stayed back to see if I could strike up a conversation or make a connection with this gentleman. We stood next to one another for about 10-15 seconds, sort of smiling and nodding gently when the older gentleman finally said in what I made out as broken German: "My father" and in Spanish "Algo interesante" (something interesting).

A little confused, I followed him into the church. I thought we were looking for a flat place upon which

he would place a picture of his father who might have been the survivor.

He led me up the row of pews, turned right at the altar, and pointed to a plaque on the wall beneath the stone hammer and sickle representing those who died from the Soviet Union at Flossenburg. He said in English, "My father."

The plaque was placed in memory of his father, Maj. Gen. Ivan Mikhailovich-Shepatov, commander of Soviet Army's 96th Mountain Division, 18th Army of the Southern Front.

He then motioned to the students to take a picture with him.

"He told us that the plaque on the wall was a representation of his father, and I realized that many people who suffered during the Holocaust were not recognized," said Taylor Hall, a VHS 10th-grader. "I could hear the pain in his voice while he told us his father's story."

Both students and teachers said they were lucky to have such an emotional, chance encounter on their field trip.

Editor's Note: Brian Swenty teaches 10th-grade AVID and 9th- and 10th-grade honors World History at Vilseck High School.



(From left) Vilseck High School 10th-graders Alexandra Huestis, Sidni Beaulieu-Hains (obscured), Laura Reid, Taylor Hall, Charrica Arnaiz, Mariah Morris stand with Mr. Shepatov at the Flossenburg Concentration Camp. Shepatov is son of Maj. Gen. Ivan Mikhailovich-Shepatov, commander of Soviet Army, 96th Mountain Division, who was executed at Flossenburg Concentration Camp, May 21, 1943.

May is National Mental Health Month

Experts give tips to prevent, identify and treat illnesses to “live your life well”

by Kelly L. Forys, Ph.D. and
Maj. Laura Lewis
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

It is easy to prevent, identify and treat a problem when it comes to one’s physical health. For example, you can prevent foot injuries by stretching properly and wearing appropriate footwear. When your foot hurts, it’s obvious you can’t walk or run as well. You also know a visit to doctor can get you started back on the road to health.

The methods for prevention, identification and treatment of mental health issues might not be as obvious. During May and National Mental Health Month, you can learn more about those issues and follow this year’s theme, “Live Your Life Well.”

Prevention

Proper footwear and stretching cannot prevent all injuries to your feet. Neither will self-care prevent all mental health issues. Prevention strategies can make a difference, though.

Living your life well means taking care of yourself, not just physically, but mentally as well. Take time to practice the tools presented below, improve your mental health, have more energy, and live a healthier life.

1. Sleep

Don’t underestimate the power of rest. Sleep helps to regulate physical processes in your body. Sleep is essential for coping with and preventing stress, depression and anxiety. Aim for seven or eight hours of sleep to function at your best.

If you have problems with sleep, consider adjusting the temperature and darkness of the room. Or, try reducing caffeine intake, setting a regular bedtime, exercising during the day and practicing a relaxation exercise before bed.

2. Be positive

A positive outlook leads to a happier, healthier life. Shift your perspective from negative to positive by catching yourself when you worry about things that you cannot control or when your self-talk focuses on the negative details.

Keep a gratitude journal to write about the people and events that make you happy each day.

3. Connect with others

Social support from family, friends and co-workers provides you with someone to talk to when times are difficult as well as someone with whom you can laugh and share good times.

Surrounding yourself with positive people can enhance your mood and well-being.



“Live Your Life Well” is the theme for this year’s National Mental Health Month. Methods for treating mental illnesses may not be as obvious as physical illnesses. Take time to practice the tools presented below to improve your mental health, have more energy, and live a healthier life.

4. Eat well

Food is your fuel. Fuel your body with nutrients and vitamins that support mental and physical health.

Focus on natural foods — fruit, vegetables, fish and nuts. Removing the junk food from your diet and replacing it with healthy foods can create changes in your brain chemistry to improve your mood. Remember as you sleep you are burning calories, so start your day off with a hardy breakfast and avoid skipping meals throughout the remainder of the day.

5. Play

Playing isn’t just for children! When was the last time that you did something just for fun, just for you? Engage in fun activities and laugh.

Go for a walk, take a hike, play a game or throw a Frisbee with friends. Leisure activities and hobbies can restore and re-energize you.

Identification

Psychological pain can be more difficult to identify than physical pain. Its effects on well-being, however, are every bit as painful. An individual might not be able to say “I am depressed and it is affecting my interpersonal relationships.” Rather, the problem is often noticed when important things in life start to suffer.

For example, not feeling like going to work, withdrawing from friends and family members, changes in eating and sleeping patterns, losing interest in activities that you used to enjoy, and worrying more than usual can all be signs of a problem.

If you notice these symptoms in yourself or another person, it is important to seek help. The earlier you get help, the faster the problem can be resolved.

Treatment

What does it mean to seek help and get treatment? Seeking help does not mean that you are “crazy.” Unfortunately, there is a stigma in both the civilian and the military culture toward seeking help for a psychological issue. This is unfortunate because seeking help when the problem is first identified can lead to a better outcome.

Skilled professionals are equipped to listen to you and to help you create and utilize coping resources to address the issue. Treatment options include talking to a chaplain, a behavioral health professional, a Military OneSource representative (www.militaryonesource.com), or a provider in the local community.

Many resources exist for helping you to prevent, identify and treat behavioral health issues.

In addition to local resources at a military facility near you, check out the following Web sites for great information and links to resources on specific concerns: www.health.mil, www.behavioralhealth.army.mil, www.afterdeployment.org. Practice “Living Your Life Well” each and every day.

Editor’s Note: Kelly L. Forys, Ph.D. and Maj. Laura Lewis are assigned to the Behavioral Health Department at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

a shot of advice

by Lt. Col. STEPHEN LINCK
BMEDDAC

Q. I’ve heard that you should use a tanning bed to get a base tan for the summer. This way you won’t burn when you’re at the beach or outdoors. Is this just a myth?

Thanks,
Tanning in Tanzfleck

A. Dear Tanning, I have a lot to say to this one. Getting a base tan is one way to approach the summer, but not what I recommend.

The truth is that the darker a person’s skin is, the more resistant he or she is to burning. Darkening of the skin is caused by a hormone in the skin called melanin that causes the skin to get darker when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Skin is your largest organ and is responsible for many functions in the body. Vitamin D production and temperature regulation and protection are a few of wonders of the skin.

To really protect your skin from burning I recommend a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. Make sure to apply sunscreen frequently and generously for the best benefit.



Linck

Q. I would like to know why it takes so long to get an OB appointment on the economy. It’s been more than a month. Shouldn’t we have had our first OB appointment by now? We want to make sure everything is okay with the baby.

V/r,
Eager in Edelsfeld

A. Dear Eager, First, let me say congratulations.

The Tricare access standard for specialty care is 28 days so you should have had your appointment within that time period. The process for our clinics is once we confirm your pregnancy we refer you to the German economy for your OB care.

We will give you prenatal vitamins, arrange a class where we talk about what to expect at the German hospital and get you in contact with your community resources.

We are usually able to get you an appointment before the 28 days so I recommend you call your Tricare service center and ask for an update on the status of your referral.

Again, congratulations and I wish you all the best.

Q. In the past few days, my head has gone from clear to murky. My eyes are burning, I have wicked headaches and I can feel sinus pressure on my jaw. This has to be from allergies.

Is there anything I can do to survive the spring in Bavaria?

Thanks,
Ill in Illesheim

A. Dear Ill, If this is your first spring in Bavaria get ready! Bavaria is a beautiful area in spring, but just look at all of the flowers and blooming things.

If you suffer from seasonal allergies I am very sorry. Other than recreating the world there is not much you can do.

The best you can do is treat the symptoms. Allegra and Zyrtec are a couple of the best known allergy medications that don’t cause drowsiness.

If your symptoms are really bad, your health care provider can prescribe inhaled steroids.

Good luck and please see your provider if your symptoms don’t improve.

If you need a shot of advice, e-mail your question to brmc-pao@amedd.army.mil.

Guide to Host Nation Health Care now online

Clinics extend their comfort zone for care into town

by Europe Regional Medical
Command Public Affairs
News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – An online “Guide to Host Nation Health Care” is now available on Europe Regional Medical Command health facility Web pages to promote understanding of local medical facilities and providers who support Army health care in Europe.

“The Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office coordinated ‘Guide’ contents with each our health clinic facilities. The goal is to increase beneficiaries’ comfort zone when receiving care at host nation medical facilities,” said Col. David Carden, director of ERM Clinical Operations.

Carden said the Tricare Host Nation Preferred Provider Network and more than 40 host nation medical facilities support Army health facilities in Europe by delivering quality care to Soldiers, families and other beneficiaries.

Each “Guide” has localized information about emergency care, host nation medical practices and the referral process, as well as an overview of each medical facility.

“There are maps, driving directions, frequently asked questions and more,” said ERM Web manager Phil Tegtmeier, who coordinated development with the Fort Detrick Network Enterprise Center, which supports Army Medical Department Web sites.

Each clinic “Guide” can be accessed from a map of ERM health facilities at <http://ermc.amedd.army.mil/MTF>

Print versions of the guide will be available at Army health facilities in June.



Soldiers, civilians and their family members have options when it comes to host nation health care. The graphic above is a screen shot of the U.S. Health Center Heidelberg online “Guide to Host Nation Health Care.” Each Army health clinic has its own guide.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Commissary Case Lot Sale

The Main Post Commissary will hold a Case Lot Sale from 10 a.m.–8 p.m., May 29-30. In addition to our Case Lot Sale we will be having Family Fun and Fitness Festival doing a Fun Run with the Treadmill, Self Defense Class, Shatokan Karate Show from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., May 29.

Also Edelweiss Resort will attend the sale having a play castle for the children a long with a chance to win a two night stay at the resort.

Warrior University

Warrior University provides Soldiers the opportunity to take college courses during duty hours. These courses are open to family members and other eligible ID card holders as well.

All courses take place at the Main Post unless specified. For more, contact the Main Post Education Center, Bldg. 538, at DSN 475-6219, CIV 09641-83-6219.

Registration: May 3 –June 1
Summer Term: June 1 –July 25
■ **University of Maryland**
BMGT 110 - Introduction to Business, 2-5 p.m. Mon/Wed
ARTH 204 - Film and American Culture 2-5 p.m. Mon/Wed
SPCH 101 - Intro to Public Speaking 2-5 p.m. Tue/Thu
■ **Central Texas College**
MTMS 2372 - Ethics in Management 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Tue/Thu (Main Post).

100th GTA contests

May 10–28: The Joint Multinational Training Command Headquarters is sponsoring three contests — art, photo and essay — to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Grafenwoehr training area. All submissions must have something to do with the history of the training area. Creativity is encouraged.

■ **Art Contest:** Students in grades 8-12 grade can submit a piece of art (Category One); Students in grades 4-7 grade can submit a piece of art (Category Two).

■ **Photo Contest:** Students in grades 8-12 grade can submit one photo. The photo must have something to do with the history of the training area.

■ **Essay Contest:** Students in grades 8-12 grade can submit a 300-400 word essay, single spaced, and Calibri font (Category One); students in grades 4-7 grade can submit a 100-200 word essay, single spaced, and Calibri font (Category Two).

■ **How to enter:** Submissions for each

contest must hand-delivered to the JMTC Public Affairs Office, Bldg 123, Rm. 111, by 5 p.m. May 28. Entries must include all entrant contact information. For the essay and photo contest, all submissions require a copy of the photo or essay on a CD. All entries become the property of the JMTC PAO and will not be returned and may be used by the JMTC for any purpose and in any media in perpetuity.

■ **How to win:** The winners will be selected by a panel of public affairs professional from the JMTC PAO. In each category, prizes will be awarded for 1st-3rd places. All participants will receive a certificate. The winning pieces of art will be showcased in the Bavarian News, displayed in the Grafenwoehr military museum and on the JMTC website.

Note: All interested parties should visit the Grafenwoehr Military Museum in downtown Grafenwoehr for ideas. Martin-Posser-Str. 14, 92655 Grafenwoehr (Stadtmitte), CIV09641/8501.

Vilseck amnesty point

Due to the success of the April Amnesty Day, a “no questions asked” amnesty point is now offered indefinitely at the ASP 1 front gate area, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more, call Carl Thomas at DSN 476-4125.

Soldier Show

The U.S. Army Soldier Show will dazzle the community with two free performances May 29, at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater. Visit www.armymwr.com/news for more information.

Hiking-tour Hartenstein

We visit the 750 year-old Hartenstein Castle, hike through the forest of red beech trees and across bizarre rocks to the Peters-Cave, which is not a show-cave, but an old cultic place of the Celts and enjoy a Bavarian Picnic in the middle of nature. The tour is June 6, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Price of \$42 includes a guided hiking tour, castle entrance and Bavarian picnic.

For more, call CIV 0170-5856939.

Army Birthday Ball

U.S. Army Europe will present the Army Birthday Ball, June 12, at 6 p.m. in the Village Pavilion, Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg.

The dress for military is Dress Blue with Bow Tie and for civilians Formal (Black Tie).

Prices per person that include dinner and entertainment:

- \$19: E1-E7/GS-7 (equivalent) and below
- \$32: E8-O6/ GS-9 (equivalent) and above
- \$40: General Officers / Senior

Executive Service civilians

There are a limited number of tickets available and they are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Guests must be 18 years of age.

Reserve your seat today by visiting (with payment) the USAREUR Protocol Office, Keyes Building, Room 215, Campbell Barracks, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon–Fri.

Central Texas College

Earn your Associates Degree while living in Europe!

Term 5 Registration for Face to Face Votech classes are going on now for Grafenwoehr Main Post and Vilseck Rose Barracks.

Courses in the associates in applied science degree programs such as criminal justice; automotive; applied management military science and early childhood professions

For more, contact Chuck Sligh in Grafenwoehr Main Post 475-6702 or Katherine Porter in Vilseck Rose Barracks at 476-2362.

5th Signal Regimental Ball

The 5th Signal Command invites all personnel who serve the Signal Regiment in Europe including military, civilian, local national employees and their guests, Saturday, June 5, at the Patrick Henry Pavilion, Heidelberg. Social hour begins at 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.europeansignalregimentalball.com.

Hammer Half Marathon

The first annual “Hammer Half” Marathon will be held, Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m., at the Grafenwoehr Gym.

Participants may preregister through the 18th CSSB's Web site at: www.16sustainment.army.mil/18CSSB/index.html.

- **Schedule of events:**
7-8:50 a.m. - registration
9 a.m. - start time
9:30 a.m. - 5k start
10:15 a.m. - family mile walk
1-2 p.m. - lunch
1:30 p.m. - awards.

Value-Added Tax update

Have VAT forms mailed to your P.O. Box with a few short, easy steps.

1 - Stop by the Main Post VAT office, Bldg. 539, to enroll.

2- Order forms by sending an email to grafnmwr.vat@eur.army.mil, (subject line must read: “VAT Form Request” and it must be from a “.mil” email account.)

3- Include in the body of the email, your full name, Last four of your SSN number, number of forms you wish to receive, APO mailing address and contact information, including a phone number.

The VAT office will then confirm your order telephonically and request payment information.

For more, DSN 475-1780, CIV 09641-831780 or visit, www.grafenwoehrmwr.com.

Hohenfels Briefs

Memorial Day Ceremony

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, in coordination with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, will conduct a Memorial Day ceremony, May 27, at 11:30 a.m. in front of Bldg. 1, JMRC Headquarters. All community members are invited to attend to honor our nation's fallen heroes.

Paris trip

Spend an exciting day in Paris as you journey with Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation to the City of Lights, May 28-30. After our early morning departure we will stop shortly for breakfast then continue to Paris for a full day of sightseeing. There is no set schedule to follow on the express, and you are free to explore this amazing city as you please.

The trip price includes transportation to and from Paris. Bus will depart Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. H15, at 11:30 p.m., May 28, and return at approximately 2 a.m., May 30. Contact ODR at DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060 for pricing and more information. Passports are required.

Kayaking trip

The first trip out on the water for the season is for intermediate to advanced kayakers, May 29-31. Learn the rivers in

the area and plan upcoming trips. Outdoor Recreation has all the equipment you need, transportation and several experienced instructors. Instruction is peer-based and will be more focused on improving river reading and controlling groups than learning to paddle. The location will be determined depending on water levels. Call to reserve your space today. For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

The Black Forest

Visit one of the most unique places in Germany, the Black Forest, June 5. Join ITR in the area where many of the cuckoo clocks are hand carved. We will visit the city of Triberg where we will be able to view the largest waterfall in Germany, visit the museums of the area and shop for the cuckoo clock of your choice. Remember to bring your VAT form. Bus will depart Hohenfels from Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. H15, at 4 a.m. and return at 11 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person includes transportation. Seating is limited to 50 people. Call to reserve your seat today! For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Golf Tournament

The summer golf tournament will be held at the Habsberg Golf Course, June 4. The registration deadline is June 1; only 18 team slots are available (4 person teams). The entry fee is \$50, \$15 for club members. Lunch is 12 euro (optional). Check-in begins at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Register on WebTrac, www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil, or contact FMWR Sports and Fitness at dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil.

Summer Bowling Special

The Bowling Center is offering a summer-long special, June 1 to Aug. 31. Buy a 50/50 card for \$25 and get 50 games of bowling for 50 cents, a savings of 66 percent. It's a great way for children and families to stay entertained all summer for an affordable price. For more, call DSN 466-4611, CIV 09472-83-4611.

Summer Reading Program

Don't miss out on the summer reading program, “Voyage to Book Island.” From June 23 to July 28, children between the ages of 5 and 17 are invited to the library for weekly get-togethers full of fun activities and great books. Sign up at the library before June 11 to participate. For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

2010 Hohenfels Bazaar

Make sure to save the date for the 2010 Hohenfels Community Bazaar, Sept. 24-26, sponsored by the Hohenfels Community Spouses Club and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

This year the bazaar will be open Sept. 24, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sept. 26, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All U.S. I.D. card holders are welcome to shop throughout the Community Activity Center and Post Gym for gourmet cheese, antiques, wine, pottery, rugs, furniture, specialty food and much more. Early dates provide a great opportunity to begin and finish your holiday shopping in one place. For more, e-mail HCSCinfo@yahoo.com or visit our Web site at www.hohenfelsscsc.com.

First in Battle Chapter

We need board members and volunteers to increase membership and support our surrounding communities. The Association for the United States Army is a private, nonprofit educational organization that supports America's Army - active, National Guard, reserve, civilians, retirees and family members. We are your voice for the Army, voice for the Soldier. For more, contact Jeanie Anderson at CIV 09472 911262 or e-mail FirstinBattle@ausa.org.

Garmisch Briefs

FMWR Trips

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center. For more on any of these FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Outdoor Recreation Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638. Signup at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Garmischretrac.html>.

Partenkirchen Walking Tour

June 2: Historic sites in Partenkirchen, the older of the twin cities which dates back to Roman times! See the “Plague Chapel” put up during the Thirty Years’ War, great frescoes, the State School for Woodworking, and the Partenkirchen Kurpark.

Listen to some wonderful stories about Ludwig the Bavarian, Henry the Lion and St. Mark. 6 p.m. Cost: \$7.

Erdinger Therme

June 3: Water park; extremely therapeutic, relaxing, calming, exhilarating and lots of good fun! Departs 7:50 a.m. Costs: \$15 for transportation, €32-38 for entrance, plus extra for food.

Brewery of the Month

June 5: The “last beer stop before heaven” is the Monsteiner Brewery near Davos, Switzerland, which is famous for its beer, beer bread, beer cheese, beer sausage and single malt whisky.

Transportation, brewery entry and guidance, all-you-can-drink beer tasting,



Rock Out Camp Out

May 28-30 Rose Barracks, Big Mike Lake

- Klettersteig
- Nature Walks
- Paintball
- Skeet Shooting
- Canoeing
- Sports
- Games
- Fishing
- Childrens Program



For more information contact DSN: 475-7402, CIV: 09641-83-7402
Participants can register online at: <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Grafenwoehrcyms.html>.
www.grafenwoehrmwr.com

Everyone reads the Bavarian News



Pick up your copy today!

What’s Happening

Garmisch
(Continued)

Ansbach
Briefs

and post-tour meal included.
Rest/photo/shopping breaks in Imst, Austria, Fluela Pass, Switzerland, and Vaduz, Liechtenstein. 7 a.m. Cost: \$89.

Prague
June 11-13: Begin with an orientation tour of Prague and then a tour that includes popular tourist sites. Tickets can be arranged for those who want to see a ballet or a modern opera.
There will be a fair amount of free time and a guided tour of the Franz Kafka museum. Departs 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$270.

Top Chef Garda See
July 2-5: Three nights on the lake-shore in beautiful Torri del Benaco with two days of cooking classes in a villa overlooking the lake plus wine tasting. Monday is market day - we head home stocking up on goodies and visit some vineyards on the South Tyrol Wine Road. A foodie extravaganza! Departs 5 p.m. Cost: \$575.

Kaltenberg Night Show
July 10: Experience the largest medieval festival and jousting tournament in the world. This is a special night performance with amazing stunts and spectacular pyrotechnics. Includes a two-course dinner and beer sampling session at the Schlossbrewery restaurant.
This trip is not suitable for children. Departs at 2 p.m. Cost: \$109.

Kaltenberg Kids Show
July 18: This daytime performance of the largest medieval festival and jousting tournament in the world with amazing stunts and spectacular pyrotechnics is suitable for all ages.
Immediately after the Knight’s Tournament finishes, the Kid’s Tournament begins! Departs at 9 a.m.
Cost: Adults \$89 and children \$69.

Bavarian Sea
July 17: The Chiemsee, Germany’s largest lake is one of Bavaria’s most beautiful places. Two ethereal islands float on the water in the middle of the lake. One island is home to “Mad King” Ludwig’s “MiniVersailles” castle.
The other is home to a Benedictine convent with a cozy fishing village. A perfect summer day trip. Departs at 8 a.m. Cost: \$49.

Schweinfurt
Briefs

Community and contact info
For more information on the latest news, upcoming events, available services and resources, or to find the right point of contact for your concern, visit us at www.TeamSchweinfurt.com.

Library Book Club
The Ledward Library invites you to the next meeting of its adult book club tonight, May 26, at 5:15 p.m. The book title is “Dancing with Rose” by Lauren Kessler. Coffee, tea, and treats will be served.
For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

G.U.T.S. meeting
The next Giving Understanding to Teens in Schweinfurt (G.U.T.S.) meeting will be held May 27 at the SMS media center starting at 8 a.m. The meeting is open to new middle school and high school youth.
For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

“Seussical Jr.”
The Community Theatre presents the last shows of “Seussical Jr.,” a play based on the works of Dr. Seuss, this weekend, May 27-28, at the Abrams Entertainment Center, each starting at 7 p.m.
Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for youth up to grade 12. For more, call CIV 0162-296-2776.

BOSS events
The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers numerous programs monthly. The next meet & greet will be held May 27 at Kessler Field starting at 1 p.m.
For a complete list of upcoming events, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

Memorial Day
Honor the lives and sacrifices of our heroes in arms. Join USAG Schweinfurt’s celebrations for Memorial Day, May 27, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Brigade Flagpole Garden on Conn Barracks and enjoy a free American style picnic at Conn Club Terrace, starting at noon.

D-Day Memorial Run
Register now through May 28 for the D-Day Memorial Run, June 5, at Kessler Fitness Center. Adults sign up at Finney Fitness Centers or Kessler Fitness Center, Youth register at Ledward Gym.
For more, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

CYSS programs closed
All Child, Youth and School Services programs are going to be closed May 28. For more information, call DSN 354-6670/6216.

Show me your talent
Come and see Schweinfurt’s talent! USAG Schweinfurt hosts a Show Me Your Talent competition, May 29, at Conn Community Conference Center.
The youth competition starts at 1 p.m., the adult competition at 7 p.m. Categories are vocal, instrumental, dance, comedian, rap, spoken word and more.
For more, call DSN 354-6225, CIV 09721-96-6225.

Eagle Scout Reception
In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Transatlantic Council is hosting a reception for all Eagle Scouts, their parents and spouses, May 29, at the Casablanca Room on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, starting at 7 p.m.
Cost is \$25 per person. For more, e-mail advancement@tac-bsa.org or visit www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html or contact their staff at Camp Darby, DSN 633-7760.

CYSS Summer programs
Child, Youth and School Services offers various free youth programs throughout summer. Register until May 31 for the High Adventure Edge, June 7-11, (6th through 8th-graders), to enjoy

climbing, mountain biking and more.
Register until June 7 for the Picture Schweinfurt Edge, June 14, (6th-12th-graders), and take your best shot of the Schweinfurt Marktplatz to be published in the Zeen magazine or register until June 8 for the Art Edge, June 15-18, (6th-12th-graders), and discover your talent with stained glass.
All programs begin and end at the Youth Center and transportation is provided. For a complete list of events or to sign up, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

Softball Tournament
Sign up June 1 through June 11 for the One-Pitch Softball Tournament, June 15-16, at the Conn Main Field. Awards will be presented to teams of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
The event is open to all ID cardholders age 18 and above. For more information, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

German holiday
Be advised that June 3 is the German Corpus Christi Day. On this holiday facilities on- and off-post might be closed or only offer limited services. Please plan accordingly. Work Reception, Self-Help-Store and SORT yards are closed.

Auto Skills classes
The Auto Skills Center offers fundamental classes on various topics at no cost. Join them for an “Intro to Automotive Painting,” June 3, from 7-8 p.m., or take advantage of their Do-it-yourself oil change service for only \$5. Just bring your own oil and let them walk you through the process.
Classes and services are open to all ID cardholders. For more, call DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224.

BHS Parent & Student Class
Bamberg High School hosts the next Parent & Student Class June 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Schweinfurt Elementary School. All interested parents and students are invited to discuss topics as College Prep, Financial Aid, Careers and more.
For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

Operation Clean Sweep
Wanted: Volunteers. Meet at the commissary on Askren Manor for this month’s Clean Sweep, June 5, at 9 a.m.
Making our housing areas better places to live, is a responsibility we all share, so come out and help make a difference.

Recycling Center closed
Due to the Environmental Awareness Days of SES and SMS the Conn Recycling Center will be closed June 8-10, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
For more, call DSN 354-6795, CIV 09721-96-6795.

Cub Scout Summer Camp
Students in 1st through 4th grade who are not currently members of the Cub Scouts are invited to join the Pack 630 for their Summer Camp near Ansbach, from Aug. 2-5.
Activities include swimming, BB gun shooting, archery, arts and crafts, nature hikes and more with over 100 boys. Total cost for the weeks camping is \$250 including all fees.
Register now through June 9 and be advised that only 10 slots are open. For more, call CIV 09725-704610, CIV 01515-258-5336.

Weight loss support group
The WIC weight loss support group meets every second Thursday at 6 p.m. and every fourth Tuesday of the month at noon at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Barracks.
The next meeting will be held June 12 at 6 p.m. This support group is open to all ID cardholders ages 12 and above and WIC membership is not required. So come on out, participate, pick up valuable info and receive answers to your questions. For more details, call DSN 354-96-6791, CIV 09721-96-6791.

Outdoor Recreation trips
Outdoor Recreation offers various trips for all community members. Join them for the “Hiking Trip to Pottenstein,” June 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Devils Cave and enjoy a fun outdoor rollercoaster. Cost is \$20, including the entrance fee to the cave and transportation, departing from and returning to the Outdoor Recreation Center.
Sign up in advance and bring euros for personal expenses. For more information, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

Food Handlers Class
Take the food handlers class, June 17, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Yellow Ribbon Room to receive your food handlers’ certification – a requirement if you are serving prepared foods to the public. Space is limited.
For more or to sign up, call DSN 476-2041/2138, CIV 09662-83-2041/2138.

SHOW ME YOUR TALENT

Sat, May 29 ★ USAG Schweinfurt

OVERALL AWARDS:
1st Prize Adult & Youth: \$500
2nd Prize Adult & Youth: \$250
3rd Prize Adult & Youth: \$150

Conn Community Conference Ctr
Conn Barracks, Bldg. 90
Youth Competition, 1 p.m.
Adult Competition, 7 p.m.

Categories (Individual & Group): Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Comedian, Rap, Spoken Word & More!

Competition open to all IMCOM-E garrisons; Sign up by Weds, May 19
Call 0162-296-2776/DSN 354-6225 or email garland.travis@eur.army.mil.
This event is part of the 2010 U.S. Army Festival of the Arts competition.

LIVE ON STAGE

Seussical Jr.

A Fantastical, Magical Musical Adventure!

May 20, 21, 22, 27 & 28
7 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 (adults) • \$10 (grades K-12)
Free for age 4 & under

Reservations E-mail: garland.travis@eur.army.mil
Please indicate performance date & number of tickets

COMMUNITY THEATRE
USAG SCHWEINFURT
ABRAMS ENTERTAINMENT CENTER



Story and photos by
Gini Sinclair
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

When a member of the Ansbach military community is asked what they know about Heilsbronn, they'll most likely mention the thrift shop. While Heilsbronn does have a large German thrift shop that offers a variety of goods, there is so much more to the town.

Just 10 minutes east of Ansbach, Heilsbronn boasts a population of nearly 10,000, making it smaller than Ansbach's 40,000, but still large enough to spend a few hours exploring.

With a name like Heilsbronn many people assume the city began life in the same way a number of other European cities did, as a religious site. While Heilsbronn is the site of a monastery in the Middle Ages, its original name was Haholdebrunner. This name was given to the area where farmers

lived. Haholdebrunner translates as a settlement by a well or spring. Over the years the name gradually became Heilsbronn.

In 1132, Bishop Otto of Bamberg bought the property from the farmers and founded a Cistercian monastery there. For the next 400 years the church and its activities were the primary function of the site. The last monk living in Heilsbronn died in 1578.

Many of the buildings that were part of the monastery remain, either in part or in their remodeled form. A walking tour of the downtown area will give visitors a sense of the buildings devoted to the church's work in the Middle Ages.

A museum in the building known as the Convent House offers visitors a glimpse of the history of Heilsbronn as well as the surrounding area.

Heilsbronn is a unique combination of old and new. A restaurant the Adler built in 1350 sits across

the street from a computer store and an insurance agent. The 12th century monastery church, today a Lutheran church, sits across the street from a tattoo and piercing store. A music club is near the dormitory, which served as the sleeping area for monks at the original monastery.

Today, Heilsbronn offers visitors a look at the past as well as entertainment for those seeking outdoor activities. Located in the geographical center of Middle Franconia, the city has access to an extensive network of hiking trails. One trail, the St. James, is part of the historic pilgrimage route used by those traveling to Nuremberg. Another trail, the Main-Donau-Weg, runs 248 kilometers and eventually ends at Neuburg.

For those looking for a shorter hike, the city tourism office provides a brochure with the route and distance for a number of hikes around the city and through the

countryside.

A bicycle path called Kloster, Kirchen und Kartoffeln (monastery, churches and potatoes) takes bicyclists through the scenic area between the Franconian Rezat and the Aurach and Schwabach rivers.

For those looking for a different kind of outdoor activity, the Freibad in Heilsbronn offers a variety of activities. The Freibad has a kiddie pool, beach volleyball, a water slide and a 25 x 50 meter pool. A lawn area with trees is available for those who might want to sit in the sun and enjoy the great outdoors.

When appetite strikes, the Freibad is ready with a snack kiosk. The pool opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m., except for Tuesday when it closes at 7 p.m.

Whether you are looking for an interesting history, a good place to eat, a long or short walk, bicycling, swimming or relaxing, Heilsbronn has it all.

Left: The hospital chapel was built in the 13th century. In 1708, the building was sold to a tailor who put the half-timbered story on the stone base. This building is located along one of the original walls of the monastery.

Right: Signs mark the different walking and bicycling trails throughout the Heilsbronn area. These signs indicate the path is for both walking and bicycles and is part of the path to the Hohenzollernweg, Karpfen Radweg and Kloster, Kirchen und Kartoffeln trails.

Below: A solitary walker makes her way down one of the many trails in the Heilsbronn area. This trail connects with three other trails in the area. All trails are marked by signs so walkers and bikers can follow trails from one city to another.



Children's 'plant dance' brightens PX

Volunteer, preschoolers dig in the dirt to make AAFES grounds gleam

Story and photo by

John Reese

USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

A group of children from the Child, Youth and School Services' program Strong Beginnings received a brief botany lesson and learned the "plant dance" at the Garmisch Post Exchange, May 14.

The green thumb was provided by garrison Eurocar representative Jake Doherty, who voluntarily plants and cares for flowers outside of the AAFES concessionaire's area where he shares an office with AAFES new car sales. He prepared the planters for the children by tilling the earth, mixing in special plant soil and digging holes. Except for the flowers set aside for the little ones, Doherty had already completed the planters with bright colors to contrast with the gray sky, making the day cheerier.

"Jake and I came to the conclusion that we wanted our kids here," said AAFES Manager Annette Montgomery. "I came up with the suggestion of bringing in the children to plant some of the flowers."

Montgomery is a new arrival to Garmisch who has enthusiastically thrown her support into community projects like a bicycle safety course and an upcoming

motorcycle safety day. AAFES provided the flowers.

Each child planted one flower and padded the soil with bag-covered hands before watering.

"And how will you remember which plant is yours?" Doherty asked the kids.

"Nametags!" they all shouted, racing back to the table to retrieve small placards on sticks. Doherty said a canteen would always be available so the children could water their plants whenever they visit the PX.

"I think it's great to be able to partner in activities like this between CYSS, AAFES and Eurocar," said Meghan McAndrew, Strong Beginning's teacher and CYSS training specialist. McAndrew shepherded the children to the planting.

When all seemed to be done, Doherty had one last gardening task for the children: the plant dance. Like a Pied Piper, he led them in a happy, bouncing parade around the planters.

"It was really a pleasure to have the kids come out and plant flowers today," said Doherty. "I think it's good for them as a learning experience, that way they can see what it takes in order to grow plants."

Strong Beginnings is a program under the umbrella of the Army Family Covenant, preparing children academically for success when they enter kindergarten as well as providing consistency and predictability in programming for children to take the pressure out of moving.



Jake Doherty (center) provides a hands-on lesson in planting and caring for flowers to Strong Beginnings preschoolers.

Burke Center moves 12 time zones for heritage celebration

Story and photos by

John Reese

USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

Paper lanterns overhead, artwork on the walls by school children, and generous samples of assorted delights from half a dozen Pacific nations piled high on tables enticed scores of community members to the Pete Burke Center, May 14, for the Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration.

The ballroom was filled to capacity. That's no surprise, as Asian Pacific Heritage is the one of the most popular ethnic observances of the year.

This year's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month theme was "Diverse leadership for a diverse workforce." The United States chose to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage during the month of May because this month marked significant achievements in the cross-cultural unification of American society. It was May 7, 1843, that the first Japanese immigrants arrived in America, and the transcontinental railroad was completed with the help of thousands of Chinese laborers, May 10, 1869.

Unlike the other more traditional programs throughout the year, the celebration features a large variety of outstanding Asian food sampling prepared by members of the Garmisch community.

"I know you saw it coming in and



Left: Jennifer Polintan, a Garmisch Elementary School student, proudly shares her Filipino heritage at the Asian Pacific Heritage celebration at the Pete Burke Center. The school children provided the art decorating the ballroom.



Right: Several Asian Pacific Heritage observation participants pose for a photo before the event begins. More than 150 members of the USAG Garmisch community attended the afternoon celebration.

you can smell it, so I'll only be between you and those wonderful Asian Pacific dishes for a few minutes," joked Garrison Manager Karin Santos in her opening comments.

Although the Bavarian Alps are a

long way from the Pacific in miles, the peoples and cultures are held close in our hearts, said Santos, noting that Asian Americans made up 11,898,828 of the U.S. population in the 2000 U.S. Census.

The preparation of the foods began days before, including a cooking class demonstration by Brandy Humphrey and Arlene Renner of the Marshall Center, May 12, of how to make lumpia, a Filipino-style eggroll.

Meanwhile, other members of the garrison and tenant units made special trips to Munich to secure special ingredients hard-to-get in Germany.

In the wee hours of the observation day Mueller Fitness Center trainer Joe Liston prepared and slow roasted a pig.

"This is great! I'm glad we're celebrating our Asian heritage," said Sgt. Suwan Ko, a Marshall Center human resources specialist. Ko's family comes from Korea. Koreans were well represented at the event, including family members and visitors wearing traditional clothing. Other nationalities were also represented, as were Hawaii and Guam.

"Let us not forget that Americans are 'E pluribus unum,' Latin for 'Out of many, one.'" A diverse nation, we are also a united one," said Santos. "We celebrate our differences but also appreciate our unification as a country founded on the belief that all are equal, and all are deserving of liberty and freedom."

Many volunteers made the event happen, and more lent a helping hand to police-up the center when the celebration ended.

The Defense Department's Equal Opportunity Office says there are currently more than 314,000 Asian and Pacific Islander military veterans and 31 Asian Pacific Medal of Honor recipients.



New manager Little set to make big changes in Garmisch

The Garmisch commissary team welcomes new manager Belinda Little (center) to the garrison. Little's last assignment was Turkey, and she was greeted by warm and sunny Alpine weather to ease the transition.

In addition to the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch and permanent party tenant unit customers, the busy store serves an international community of visiting military students as well as a large retiree community.

Photo by John Reese

Bring the kids!

Grab your bikes and join the U.S.

Army Garrison

Garmisch and the

German Police for children's bicycle

traffic classes,

Saturday, June 12,

from 10 a.m.-noon,

at the AAFES and

Commissary

parking area on

Artillery Kaserne.

412th ASB Soldiers deliver morale

Story and photo by
Spc. Chris Fruci
Task Force 12 S-1 Mail Room

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Mail is an important morale booster for the Soldiers of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Most Soldiers in the 12th CAB here wait excitedly for the mail call roster every day. The brigade mail room serves the Headquarters, Headquarters Company to the entire 412th Aviation Support Battalion. Spc. Angela Angeles-Martinez, with the brigade S-3 AMC Section, said it’s the little things she can get through the mail that make this, her first deployment, much more bearable.

“Little things like shampoo, towels and other things are what both my husband and I look forward to when the mail comes. Just those little touches of home make all the difference in our morale,” she said.

Other Soldiers just get a positive boost whenever they get something in the mail, especially when it has been a long day, week or month.

“I just got back from (Forward Operating Base) Garry Owen, and every time I got something in the mail it got me up and going and made the day better,” said Sgt. Alan Calderon, a quality assurance/quality control noncommissioned officer with 412th ASB.

Many Soldiers have turned to the mail to meet their needs, from laundry soap to games, movies, uniforms and letters. And few things compare to the sight of Soldiers eagerly arriving at the mail room for their latest arrival.

“One of the first questions Soldiers ask prior to a deployment is ‘What’s our address going to be?’” said Capt. Jeremy Sauer, commander, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 12th CAB. “This indicates just how important mail is to deployed Soldiers’ morale. The confirma-



Sgt. Ray Cole, human resources noncommissioned officer with the 412th Aviation Support Battalion S-1, gets another delivery from his wife in Katterbach, Germany.

tion comes when you see the smiles on their faces when they’re leaving the mail room with their letters and boxes from home.”

The mail room is run by the brigade S-1, and every day a representative picks up mail from local APO. After picking the mail up, he or she has a tight deadline in which to sort the mail and get the roster out. That’s when the rush comes in, almost immediately after the roster is sent. The mail is usually ready for pick up no later than 1 p.m. every day.

Because of the volcanic eruption in Iceland earlier this month, there was a short delay in the flow of mail. Nevertheless, the delay is over and mail is pouring into theater.

While being patient and waiting for pack-

ages to arrive is something most Soldiers are very familiar with, some want to know even more precisely where their package is and when it will arrive. For postal customers who need to mail expensive items to their deployed Soldier, or just want to make sure the package gets to its destination, insurance is available for a very low fee from the post office. This will give the parcel being sent a tracking number so it can be located online. Visit www.usps.com for more information.

Once the package gets into theater there are very few scanners to scan the parcel, but there will be a paper trail, and eventually the parcel will make its way to the 12th CAB mail room, and in the hands of the service member.

Asian-American, Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration recognizes Soldier diversity

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Task Force 12 Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Many nations, many cultures, one celebration, honoring those who serve in and support the Army from the South Pacific regions, no matter what generation they represent; this was the goal of the 2010 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at Contingency Operating Base Adder Memorial Hall, May 15.

There was music and dancing, as well as food steeped in rich cultures from the Pacific Islands. Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand (Aotearoa) and Samoa

were represented during the celebration by performers who consisted of Soldiers, airmen and contractors with heritage from those regions.

“This (event) is about sharing our culture and who we are with everyone who wants to take part,” said Sgt. John Yang, a native of Sinamoga, Western Samoa, and the supply non-commissioned officer-in-charge for C Company, 412th Aviation Support Battalion, Task Force 12.

Yang explained that most people from the Pacific region are extremely tolerant and very open and inviting to all, no matter who they are or from where they hail. Feasts of food, games, sports and all manner of social mingling can be found at virtually any celebration they host.



Male performers help one another get into traditional garb during a rehearsal for the 2010 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at Contingency Operating Base Adder.



Old friends reunite

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael B. Bounds stands in front of his former aircraft, tail number 025, at its final resting place in Memorial Park next to 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Headquarters in Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach.

Bounds, who recently served as the production control officer with 412th Aviation Support Battalion, flew on 025 as a young crew chief in the early 1990s when he was stationed in Berlin, Germany.

Upon being assigned to Ansbach, he found an old friend, someone he thought had been turned into “beer cans” long ago. Bounds is currently on assignment in Korea.

Courtesy photo

A motorcycle’s perspective Safety sense is common sense

by **David L. Zipf**
USAG Ansbach Safety Office

Have you ever seen a long line of motorcycles parked outside a cafe or a motel in a remote part of the country? There are always bikes of different types, colors and styles. Some of the bikes have comfortable back and headrests, fairings, trunk bags, while others are basic bike-metal and chrome. The styles are as numerous as the color variations, and the names: “American Iron-Horse Texas Chopper,” “Big Dog Mastiff,” “Harley-Davidson XLCH 1000 Sportster,” ... and so many more that it’s difficult to remember them all.

Do you ever wonder in this oh-so-modern world, where “Transformers” are thought of as real possibility in the near future, a world where we already have artificial intelligence to a limited degree, if some of these machines talk among themselves, such as a long line of motorcycles outside a remote eating spot? What do you think they would say? For a moment, let’s enter that world between reality and fiction.

It is a beautiful spring weekend in Germany, the sun is shining, the temperature is in the mid-70s – perfect for a motorcycle biking club to take a trip across Bavaria. The club eventually stops at a countryside cafe, carefully pulling their bikes in and parking. As the folks go into the cafe for refreshments, the dust gradually settles.

“Well, this is interesting,” said the “Indian Chief” (a 2001 custom cruiser, 75-horsepower, 5,200 RPM with a top speed of 105.6 mph).

“What is so interesting, big guy?” asked the “Honda CB 500 F (a mint model 1976 classic, 48 horsepower, 9,000 RPM with a top speed of 111.2 mph).

“My rider didn’t fall off, even once. All that practice we put in must be working,” said the Chief.

“Yeah, that might be so but you guys looked a bit wobbly to me,” said the “Big Dog Mastiff” (a 2008 custom cruiser with telescopic front suspension).

“Lay off, Big Dog. You didn’t look to stable going around those curves, yourself,” said the Harley-Davidson XL 1200L Sportster (a 2008 73.2 cubic inch V2 engine, fuel injected, 5-speed, 581 pounds of metal and chrome).

“Hey, that could be, but did you happen to notice my rider had on all his protective gear?” asked Big Dog. “Remember the last time we went cross-country he was wearing shorts and tennies without socks? And that funky tank-top with the Gooney bird on it! You had a connip-tion!”

“What about it?” said the Harley-Davidson.

“Well, he fell off going down a steep grade several months back. He was trying to call someone on his cell phone and wasn’t paying attention. We hit some gravel on the road, went into a skid, and man oh man, did he ever lose some skin! I lost some paint, but it was worth it to see that big dummy rolling down the hill. Now, he pays attention when we ride and he wears his full protective gear.”

“Hey, man, I remember back in the ‘70s, man, when we didn’t wear any gear at all, man. I mean, like, all those ‘dropping the bike’ scenes didn’t hurt us, man,” said the “Honda CB 500 F” (a 1976 classic, 30.39 cubic inches, four-stroke engine, five-speed with a top speed of 111.2 mph).

“Gee, guys, I’m kinda new to all of this. Can you, like, tell me what protective gear my rider should be wearing?” asked the “Star Stratoliner Deluxe” (a 2010 cruiser made for cross-country comfort, including 133 cubic inch, aluminum frame weight of 48.8 pounds, iPod ready, radio receiver, CD player).

“Kid, I’ve been around for a long time and do you know why?” said the Harley-Davidson XLCH 1000 Sportster (a 1975 custom cruiser, 60.84 ci, V2 engine, 4-stroke, 57 horsepower, top speed 115 mph). “Because I have had a rider who cares about himself, his family and me. He took the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course Basic Rider Course and later the Experienced Rider Course. He learned how to properly operate me, not just get on and try to go in the right direction.

“He bought an approved helmet with a shield to protect his eyes, a sturdy leather jacket, leather riding pants, over-the-ankle leather boots, leather gloves, everything brightly colored so everyone can see you coming for miles.

“I like to announce my arrival, so my paint job is pretty neat, too, don’t you think? I’ve been around for 35 years because my rider cares enough to be safe ... does yours?”

Afghan soldiers enhance training at JMRC

Partnership creates cohesion between U.S., Afghan Soldiers

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker
JMRC Public Affairs

With his helmet strapped on firmly, Sgt. Abulla Abed of the Afghan National Army held his rifle tightly, pointing it at the wet concrete floor, as he eyed the doorway into a building at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center’s Geroldsee Shoothouse.

After a pause, Abed pushed back against the man behind him and then leaned forward. Following Abed’s lead, the second man joined the rhythmic movement. One by one, the other soldiers stacked along the wall behind Abed, rocked back and forward until all four men moved in unison.

On signal and with the forward momentum gained from the motion, Abed raised his rifle and the men, one-by-one, burst through the doorway, each pointing his weapon to a particular area until they dominated the roofless room at the training site.

On this day, the Afghan team was neither the fastest nor the most precise. However, with each repetition of the room clearing drill, the Afghans gained speed, precision and confidence.

Still, practicing the drill with his fellow Afghans was not enough for Abed. Whenever possible, Abed jumped at the opportunity to work on either the American or the Croatian room-clearing team.

“The U.S. Army has the best techniques and tactics,” he said. “I know a lot, but I can learn even more from them by being here.”



Afghan National Army soldiers prepare to clear a room during an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team training exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. Sixty-five Afghan soldiers participated in OMLT training at JMRC to help prepare U.S. and multinational troops to deploy to Afghanistan as part of the NATO International Security Assistance Force. The OMLT will help with the ISAF mission of assisting the government of Afghanistan in establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Abed was among about 65 Afghan National Army soldiers invited to JMRC to take part in the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team training to help prepare troops to deploy to Afghanistan. The training event included military personnel from 13 countries: the United Kingdom, Poland, Belgium, Spain, Germany,

Romania, France, Hungary, Norway, Croatia, Slovakia, Afghanistan and the United States. The training began in late April and ended mid-May.

The three-week training rehearsal exercise gave NATO countries’ troops a chance to experience mentoring, teaching and coaching actual Afghan National Army soldiers, like

Abed. At the same time, it provided Abed and his fellow Afghan soldiers a chance to work with troops from other countries who will be part of counter insurgency operations in Afghanistan.

Abed, who has trained mainly with Americans in Afghanistan, said the training facilities and working

with troops from other countries are what he enjoys the most about JMRC.

“It’s all about learning. I can learn things here that I can’t learn in Afghanistan,” Abed said.

The presence of the Afghan soldiers gave the members of the Minnesota National Guard a valuable head start on learning and understanding the training requirements for working with Afghan troops. The National Guard unit will deploy to Afghanistan later this year with Croatian Armed Forces troops as a combined Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team where they will coach, teach and mentor an Afghan Army support battalion.

Maj. David Baer of the Minnesota National Guard said training with the Afghans allowed his Soldiers to gain vital face-to-face experience. Most of his Soldiers have little experience working with Afghan troops, he said.

“So, having Afghans here, talking with them about Afghanistan, the Afghan Army and learning how to teach, coach and mentor them before we actually get on the ground ... is absolutely vital,” Baer said.

Afghan Army Lt. Col. Ahmad Ali said he and other Afghans here planned to take back what they’ve learned and teach it to their comrades.

“The training is very good. You can learn a lot. We will surely use it in Afghanistan,” Ali said.

Ali said he thinks more Afghan soldiers, especially officers, should come to JMRC to train with Americans and multinational troops. The experience would be mutually beneficial, he said.

“They are learning from each others’ experiences. Everybody learns from each other. It’s a win-win for everybody,” Ali said.

Handler remembers faithful partner ‘Ardy’

by **Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth**
18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs

While a military working dog might officially be classified as a “highly specialized piece of equipment” by Army standards, in the world of military working dogs – especially where a dog is a partner, a friend and a battle buddy to its handler – the bond that develops is often one of genuine caring and love. To lose that partner, that buddy, is a loss that is deeply felt. It is not like losing a piece of equipment; it is truly like losing a friend.

The Army lost one of its finest working dogs in Kaiserslautern, Germany, May 6, when military working dog Ardy, a Patrol Explosive Detection Dog with the 527th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, was put to rest after it was discovered that his aggressive case of cancer could not be treated.

It was a somber end for an MWD who soldiered on despite the years of hard work and multiple deployments.

Ardy began his career in Germany back in 2003 in Darmstadt. In his seven years as an MWD, Ardy deployed four times, twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When Ardy’s handler, Staff Sgt. Kristopher Maranville, kennel master for the Hohenfels Kennels, 527th MP Co., first got word in 2007 that he would be getting Ardy, he said that even then, “I knew I was getting a good dog.”

But, more than getting a good dog, Maranville was getting a good partner.

“They were a match made in heaven. They were like father and son,” said Staff Sgt. Terrence Parker, a fellow dog handler with the 527th MP Co.

Ardy and Maranville deployed together once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, where they went on combat missions outside the wire and provided force protection.

As a Patrol Explosive Detection Dog, Ardy’s training and instincts were as important to mission success as the training of the Soldiers he was there to protect. Ardy’s contributions to the Army and its Soldiers are not easy to measure, but they are impossible to overlook.

While a typical working dog usually begins to be cycled out of its job when it turns seven years old, Ardy was still going strong at almost 10, until his illness took hold.

“He was a hard worker,” Maranville said. “He liked to do his job; he wouldn’t quit doing his job.”



Ardy

Above: Staff Sgt. Kristopher Maranville, a kennel master with 527th Military Police Company, 709th MP Battalion, takes a break on the beach in Normandy, France, during a mission with his military working dog, Ardy.

Left: Military working dog Ardy poses for a photo while on deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

And while Ardy may have been the “old man of the kennel” as Parker called him, his age didn’t seem to hold him back in his job or in his affection for his partner. Even though he weighed 85 pounds, “Ardy was so happy whenever (Maranville) would walk into the room, he would bounce up and down,” Parker said.

That type of a welcome for his partner seemed to typify Ardy’s personality, of which there was a lot. Despite the fact that he was an 85-pound German shepherd, Ardy made friends wherever he went. Everyone liked him, Maranville said. He just had that kind of personality.

“If you met him once, you liked him,” Maranville said, adding that Ardy’s personality shined until the end. “The day they put him down, he had all the vet techs in tears. He was just that kind of dog. They grew attached to him

in less than a week.”

As a team, Maranville said they deployed together without much fanfare and came back from deployment without the elaborate welcome back that a unit’s return might receive. If Ardy’s passing provides one thing, it’s recognition for the hard work and dedication that he had to his job, Maranville said, adding that “the fact that he’s getting recognized is really the biggest thing for me.”

Trained dogs have a proud heritage in the military. They have been used in the world’s militaries since they were first organized, amplifying Soldiers’ skills by acting as an extension of them. As the community remembers Ardy, it is comforting to know that even though he will be missed, a fine example of a “war dog” has been added to that proud legacy.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day



Photo by Garry Barrows

Military spouse Shawn Harris receives a hug and a gift from Theresa Ortiz, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, in honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 7. Army Community Service staffers handed out 150 goody jars during the Mother’s Day Bazaar at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, May 7-9.

Each year since 1984, the Friday before Mother’s Day has been designated as Military Spouse Appreciation Day to recognize and applaud the selfless contributions and daily sacrifices of military spouses.

Every bit counts!

Help the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels save energy by turning off lights and computers when not in use.

Volunteers are ‘sails’ of the Hohenfels community

Story and photos by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

The many volunteers — Soldiers, civilians, family members and host nation partners — who donate their time to support community organizations got a big “thank you” from the Hohenfels community during the 2010 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the Community Activity Center, May 13.

The event was meant to show Hohenfels’ many volunteers just how much they are treasured, a goal Army Community Service staff took to the extreme by planning a pirate-themed ceremony and luncheon.

Even though the Joint Multinational Readiness Center and U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels commanders joined in their fair share of spontaneous “aarghs” and corny pirate jokes, both leaders were serious about one thing: their appreciation for the community’s numerous volunteers.

“We truly could not enjoy the quality of life that we have without our volunteers’ service. You have helped make Hohenfels a great little place,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander.

Col. John Spiszer, JMRC commander, took advantage of the event’s theme when giving his thanks to attendees.

Spiszer compared the community to a ship where the hull, what keeps the ship afloat, is represented by the community’s foundations: the schools, houses and facilities, and the rudder, the tool that moves the ship in the right direction, is represented by the garrison commander and staff. In his analogy, Spiszer said Hohenfels’ volunteers are the sails that provide the energy to move the ship forward.

“You can’t move anywhere unless you have some sort of locomotion, unless you have something to move us along and that’s the sails,” said Spiszer. “You all here today are the sails that help push the whole darn ship along and without the volunteers we have here we wouldn’t get very far at all. We just can’t be a community without what you all do.”

Spiszer said after being stationed at many large posts, he continues to be impressed that the small community of Hohenfels does everything a big community does — and in some cases does even more.

“That means that many of you out there are doing multiple things for us and for each other and for your kids,” said Spiszer.

After the commanders’ remarks, volunteers received recognition for their hard work. Every person in attendance who had logged volunteer hours from 2009 into the Volunteer Management Information System, an online tool for recording volunteer hours, received a certificate of appreciation. Though that amounted to



Jennifer Burlingame receives a certificate of appreciation from Col. John Spiszer, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander, left, and Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels commander, center, during the 2010 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, May 13.



James Schafer, with parents Jaime Shafer and Maj. Joe Schafer, inspects the certificate of appreciation he received during the 2010 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, May 13. Schafer was one of many volunteers honored for their service to the Hohenfels community.

a room full of people, ACS staff said the total amount of volunteers in Hohenfels is even greater than the number recognized.

“We know there are many more volunteers who don’t log their hours and we want to thank them too. We want to recognize all our volunteers,” said Brandi Stauber, Army Community Service director.

Stauber said VMIS is a vital tool that helps individuals track their volunteer time and helps the community track total volunteer hours.

“This tool is ideal for our ever-transitioning military population. It provides an avenue to store the individual’s volunteer hours/awards/training in your military community you live in now and is portable for the next community, or two or three, you move to,” said Stauber.

To start a VMIS account, visit www.my-armyonesource.com.

In addition to certificates of appreciation, awards were also given to volunteers who logged more than 500 hours last year, and to two people who logged more than 1,000 hours.

“To put that in context, volunteering 500 hours is equivalent to working three months of a full time 40 hour-a-week job,” said Spiszer, “and those two people who have given more than 1,000 hours have been working a full time job for half a year.”

Also, each organization on post was invited to name an adult and a youth volunteer of the year for that organization. Six people received communitywide Volunteer of the Year awards, one in each of six categories.

Hohenfels community volunteers

1,000 hours or more
Jennifer Burlingame
Lori Starnes

500 hours or more
Shannon Callis
Jennifer Duncan
Ann Dunleavy
Amy Keeler
Andreas Kirshenbauer
LeeAnne McDonald
Lisa Simmons
Cynthia Waiters

Volunteers of the Year

Military Family Volunteers of the Year:
Meharg Family
Military Spouse Volunteer of the Year:
Ann Dunleavy
Active Duty Military Member Volunteer of the Year: Staff Sgt. Clifford Neighbors
Youth Volunteer of the Year: Daniel Cochran
Host Nation Volunteer of the Year:
Tanja Walter
Civilian Volunteer of the Year:
Darren Mesch

Organizational Volunteers of the Year

Catholic Religious Education: Mark Evans
Catholic Services: Gary Bomske
Catholic Services: Anne Marie Schafer
Hohenfels Girl Scouts: Lisa Simmons
Hohenfels Girl Scouts: Rachel Lange
Hohenfels Cub Scouts: Mary Wood
Hohenfels Boy Scouts: Yancy Wood
Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club: Jamie Abner
Thrift Shop: Mary Donnigan
Hohenfels Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association: Cheryl Ray

Family Readiness Groups

A Co., 1-4th Inf. Regt.: Tammy Koepeke
A Co., 1-4th Inf. Regt.: Kayla Starnes
B Co., 1-4th Inf. Regt.: AmyBeth Gomez
C Co., 1-4th Inf. Regt.: Whitney Robinson
D Co., 1-4th Inf. Regt.: Cindy Flach
HHC, 1-4th Inf. Regt.: Ceci Ramos
1-4th Inf. Regt.: Joanne Dennis
A Co., 1st MI Battalion: Laurie Dove

German, American providers meet during Nurses’ Week

Officials say communication between providers is key to comprehensive patient care

Story and photo by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

When Soldiers, civilians or family members from the Hohenfels community need medical care, they visit the Hohenfels Health Clinic where before seeing a doctor, they most likely first see an American nurse. When one of those community members is referred to an off-post facility for specialty care, they, likewise, will probably first see a German nurse.

The two groups got the opportunity to meet and share stories when nurses from the Burglengenfeld and Parsberg hospitals visited the Hohenfels Health Clinic, May 14, as the culmination of a week’s worth of events the clinic planned to honor its nurses during National Nurse’s Week.

“I honestly believe we have the best nursing staff in Europe and we really wanted to take this week to honor their service to this community and their contributions to the health care team,” said Lt. Col. Derek Cooper, Hohenfels Health Clinic commander.

Events earlier in the week included a nurses’ breakfast, massage treatments and a nurses’ five-kilometer run. The week’s festivities concluded with the German nurses’ visit on Friday.

“We wanted to incorporate the German nurses that treat our patients on a daily basis into our Nurses’ Week as another way of saying thank you for taking care of our beneficiaries here in Hohenfels,” said Maj. Jimmie Tolvert, Hohenfels Health Clinic chief nurse.

Hohenfels nurses gave their German counterparts a tour of the facility, after which the

two groups sat down for a discussion about the similarities and differences between their two roles before ending the visit with a potluck lunch.

“We tried to have all the German nurses here so they can see our side, can understand what we do here, why we ask for what we ask for — basically to increase the understanding between us,” said Tolvert.

Glerena Penate, a nurse at the Burglengenfeld Hospital, and her colleagues said learning about differences between the way American and German nurses and facilities operate will help them better understand their American patients.

“It was very interesting because we get lots of patients from Hohenfels but we don’t know how things work here; we didn’t know what kind of support the patients get in a military clinic,” said Penate. “For example, we are surprised when the Americans come to the hospital and they bring nothing (no towels, hygiene items) but now we know why, because it is normal in the United States for the hospital to give them to you.”

“We got to see what they have here. An X-ray is possible, small surgeries are possible. The support here is great,” said Penate.

Both German nurses and officials at the Hohenfels clinic said an increased understanding between the two sides would ultimately help patients.

“It was helpful to understand better how it works here so we better understand when we see the patients,” said Andrea Williams, a Parsberg Hospital nurse.

“We send patients off post for a lot of things, so it is vital that we have a good relationship with our host nation providers,” said Leslie Mittag, population health and wellness nurse at the Hohenfels clinic.

Cooper said that facilitating a positive working relationship between American and



Keandra Watson, a nurse at the Hohenfels Health Clinic, gives a group of German nurses from area hospitals a tour of the clinic, May 14. During National Nurses’ Week, the Hohenfels Health Clinic organized events to thank and honor nurses, including a tour of the clinic and lunch for nurses who care for Hohenfels patients at off-post facilities. Both American and German nurses said such relationship-building events help them provide comprehensive, seamless health care to patients in the Hohenfels military community.

German providers helps ensure patients receive comprehensive care and a seamless transition between facilities.

“Typically in a hospital you go up and down floors (instead of from facility to facility),” said Cooper. “Our patient hand-off is a little more challenging, so knowing the person on the

other end of the line is important for providing coordinated health care.”

At the end of the day, Cooper said the clinic’s patients are for the most part very satisfied with the care they receive off post and thanked the nurses for being instrumental in providing that care.

Battalions welcome new commanders

Cardoni leads Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery

by Nathan VanSchaik and
Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Christopher J. Cardoni assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Steven L. Hite in a ceremony, May 5. Originally from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Cardoni graduated from West Chester University with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and also holds a master's degree in Computer Resources and Information Management from Webster University.

After completion of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course in 1991, Cardoni was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, in Baumholder, Germany. Further duty stations on his path were Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort Drum, N.Y.

In 2005, Cardoni was as-

signed as the operations officer for the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, in Quayarah, Iraq. Upon redeployment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, later reflagged to 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment and relocated to Germany.

In July 2006, Cardoni served as the squadron executive officer for the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck. In 2007, Cardoni was assigned as a land warfare subject matter expert in the newly formed NATO Joint Force Training Centre in Bydgoszcz, Poland. USAG Schweinfurt welcomes Cardoni and his wife Monika to the community.



Cardoni



Photo by Spc. Bethany L. Little

Lt. Col. Christopher J. Cardoni assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Steven L. Hite, here seen while passing the battalion colors.

Gilberti takes reins of 9th Engineer Battalion

by Nathan VanSchaik and
Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jayson C. Gilberti assumed command of the 9th Engineer Battalion from outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Benjamin J. Bigelow, during a ceremony on Conn Barracks at the Schweinfurt garrison, May 12.

Gilberti was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers through the University of Massachusetts – Amherst Reserve Officers Training Corps Program in 1993.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration there and a master's degree in Management from Webster University.

His military education includes the Army Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms and

Staff Services School, and the Engineer Officer Advanced and Basic Courses.

Prior to his assignment to the 9th Engineer Battalion, Gilberti served as the military assistant to the commander, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A) and the executive officer and aide-de-camp to the commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

He is married and has two children with the former Kim Marie Arsenault of West Townsend, Mass.



Gilberti



Photo by Nathan Van Schaik

Lt. Col. Jayson C. Gilberti (with red organizational colors in hand) assumes command of the 9th Engineer Battalion from Lt. Col. Benjamin J. Bigelow, outgoing commander.

Schweinfurt's support system is outstanding

Story and photos by
Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Since one single pint of blood can save up to three lives, Schweinfurt blood donors just saved up to 342 lives with the latest blood drive, April 27, hosted by the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 15th Engineer Battalion.

One hundred sixty-seven community members signed up, donating a total of 114 pints of blood; an impressive amount, which covers more than a third of the monthly need of the Armed Services Blood Bank Center Europe (ASBBC-E) in Landstuhl to supply all of EUCOM and AFRICOM, according to Mike Peacock, Blood Donor Recruiter of ASBBC-E.

"The blood drives here in Schweinfurt have been unbelievable," Peacock said, highlighting his positive experience with the community. "The support of the battalions has been outstanding, the leadership has been behind it, the community has been behind it and the family readiness groups supported it with baked goods. Schweinfurt is an outstanding example and we love coming here."

After a complete standstill in 2009, because the ASBBC-E lacked the support of Schweinfurt based units, this blood drive was the second of its kind in 2010. While the event was a tremendous success, Spc. Robert Beggs, who was one of the main organizers from the 15th Eng. Bn., pointed out how easy sponsoring was.

Efforts mainly included three actions: Arranging an appointment with ASBBC-E, reserving a site for



Spc. Candace Chism of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center shows Spc. Matthew Darden his "accomplishments." During the April 27 blood drive the Schweinfurt community saved up to 342 lives of military service members and their families by donating a total of 114 pints of blood.

the event and getting the word out – flyers and all necessary information were provided by Peacock.

Beggs estimated a need of about 15 volunteers for the event itself, emphasizing that all duties can be performed without any medical knowledge. While it is not a requirement, Beggs expressed the importance of the FRG, motivating family members to participate and providing homemade goodies as well as moral support.

"In all, it's really quite easy," Beggs said. "You just gotta have the will to do it and if units here decide to sponsor a blood drive, they can always come to me or Ms. Kimberly Messer and we will gladly answer all

their questions."

Kimberly Messer, Family Readiness Support Assistant and one of the main organizers of the 44th ESB, was excited and thankful for the strong participation of the Schweinfurt community.

With her own husband being deployed with the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), she knows about the importance of the blood drive and appreciated both volunteers and donors.

"If you never donated and you're skeptical about where the blood goes, we can assure you, it stays within our military community," Messer said. "This blood helps all Soldiers and yes, you are truly saving lives!



"Please make sure to hydrate and get something to snack on. Stay with us for 15 minutes, that way we know you are OK," says Tech. Sgt. Kristi Binard, NCOIC of Operations of the ASBBC-E, as she pulls the needle on Pfc. Kathy Lo of the 12th Chemical Company, 1st Infantry Division. Lo described her experience as fast, informative and absolutely painless.

So come out and help save a life, it could be your Soldier."

The ASBBC-E supplies all military medical facilities in Europe and Africa. At times, it also delivers blood on a short-term notice to Iraq and Afghanistan. However, the majority of the blood is used at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to treat injured troops coming from Afghanistan or Iraq.

For more information on the next blood drive in Schweinfurt, to donate or to setup your own drive with your unit or group, visit the Armed Services Blood Program Web site at www.militaryblood.dod.mil or call the ASBBC-E at DSN 486-6497, CIV 06371-86-6497.



Photo by Nathan Van Schaik

The flagpole on Conn Barracks is the site of this year's Memorial Day ceremony, May 27, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend this event and the free, all-American grill party at the Conn Club Pavilion immediately following the ceremony.

Schweinfurt celebrates Memorial Day

by Hilda Wojack
Special to the Bavarian News

For many, the end of May marks the start of the summer season with outdoor picnics and gathering of friends and family. It is also a time of remembrance.

Come join the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary in celebrating the safe return of our Soldiers stationed in Franconia, all the while keeping in our hearts the units and troops currently deployed.

On this Memorial Day as with all Memorial Days in the past, VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary will honor all our service members, those who are here and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Once again a weeklong series of events will be staged including wreath laying at several cemeteries in Bavaria.

At the end of the week, May 27, VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary will host guest speaker U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Balch, the senior enlisted leader at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

In the past 12 years, Balch has seen deployments with the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999; with the Engineer Brigade, 1st Infantry Division stationed in Bamberg, Germany, deploying and overseeing the building of Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo; with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers overseeing military construction in Afghanistan and Iraq; as the command sergeant major for the Gulf Region Division of the Corps of Engineers to Iraq in 2004; and made numerous trips to Afghanistan from 2002 to 2004 to help oversee the execution of \$12.9 billion worth of reconstruction effort.

Everyone is invited to attend this event and the free, all-American grill party at the Conn Club Pavilion immediately following the ceremony. The celebration begins at 11:30 a.m. at the flagpole across from Building 1 on Conn Barracks.

Join the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary in celebrating the achievements of our service members and the start of the new season.

Enjoy barbecue, mingle with friends and other Schweinfurt military family members and give thanks to our Soldiers and the freedoms they afford us.

For more information, call CIV 0160-934-19632.

IMCOM-E Soldiers strive for top honors

by Tom Saunders
IMCOM Europe Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Top Soldiers from Installation Management Command-Europe competed in the region’s Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition, May 2-5, in Grafenwoehr, Germany, with winners set to be announced June 1.

According to IMCOM-Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Tracey Anbiya, the Village Pavilion at Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg is the place to be June 1 for unit members and workers to root on their fellow Soldiers during a luncheon ceremony set to start at 11:30 a.m.

“Last year’s ceremony was enthusiastic, and we are expecting a lot of ‘Soldiers being Soldiers’ again this year,” said Anbiya. “This is a chance for members from our communities across Europe along with our entire IMCOM-Europe workforce to share camaraderie and pay tribute to our Soldiers.”

The annual Soldier competition is a three-phased event. Phase 1 of the competition was the unit selection of an NCO, while Phases 2 and 3 were held at Grafenwoehr.

During the competition at Grafenwoehr, participants underwent a comprehensive evaluation of skills ranging from physical fitness to military

2010 NCO and Soldier of the Year competitors

NCO Category

Sgt. Mark Arnett (Kaiserslautern)
Sgt. Jonathan Copp (Wiesbaden)
Staff Sgt. William Delong (Vicenza)
Staff Sgt. Niger Jones (Bamberg)
Sgt. Nathan Magorian (Ansbach)
Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougal (Stuttgart)
Sgt. Jeremiah Sutton (Benelux)

Soldier Category

Spc. Juan Anchondo (Wiesbaden)
Spc. Luis Berber (Grafenwoehr)
Spc. Selma Colesbacco (Ansbach)
Spc. Michael Crawford (Vicenza)

knowledge, including land navigation exercises, weapons qualification and written exams.

The two region selectees will represent IMCOM-Europe at the Military District of Washington competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., at a later date.

Anbiya said that the region ceremony at PHV will follow a professional structure, but much of the script and format will also focus on letting competitors and attendees “have a bit of fun.”

“This event is all about recognizing professionalism and pride,



Courtesy photo

Competitors get a rundown prior of what to expect during a day at the range to test soldiering skills during IMCOM-Europe’s Soldier and NCO competition at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, May 2.

and those two ingredients bring out enthusiastic support from Soldiers, families and colleagues. So, it should be a very special event,” said Anbiya.

Command sergeants major at U.S. Army Garrisons throughout Europe are coordinating logistics of transporting representatives from local

garrisons to attend the ceremony. Anbiya said individuals wanting to attend the ceremony should work through their military chain of command to get more information about transportation. Cost for the buffet meal is \$10 for sergeant first class and above and civilian attendees.

Show puts technology into the mix

Continued from page 1
reaching social-media tools, many of which the Army has embraced.

Hurtado was quickly impressed by this year’s Soldier Show performers.

“When I hear them sing together, it’s like the most glorious choir,” he said. “People are going to be just shocked by how good they are.”

Soldier Show founder Irving Berlin would not have wanted it any other way. The Soldier-performers, in turn, will honor the founding father of Army Entertainment.

“There’s some great historical content with Irving Berlin,” Hurtado explained. “We have much better video technology this year with moving projectors. We’re going to be able to use that during the show for a lot longer lengths of time, so we have voiceovers with Irving Berlin and some of his work.”

The show will open with Disturbed’s heavy metal anthem “Indestructible,” which was written to inspire Soldiers headed for battle.

“It’s meant to be something that would make them feel invincible, take away their fear, make them strong,” Disturbed lead vocalist David Draiman said.

As always, the troops will deliver several genres of music and dance, complete with Soldier-musicians on guitar, bass, keyboard and drums.

“We have an incredibly trained male ballet dancer,” Hurtado said. “Pfc. Andrew Enriquez brings an incredibly masculine (Mikhail) Baryshnikov style.”



Spc. David Plasterer and Pfc. Andrew Clouse play “Walking on Sunshine” during rehearsal for the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show at Wallace Theater on Fort Belvoir, Va.

And, of course, there’s a tribute to the late Michael Jackson.

“With the Michael Jackson segment, we’re just making use of what he left behind,” said Hurtado, who revealed the medley will include “ABC,” “I Want You Back,” “I’ll Be There,” and “Jam.” “I don’t want to give too much away, but the very last piece is something that you’ll definitely recognize,” Hurtado added while moon-walking backwards.

He then touched briefly on the finale.

“The most important thing about the show this year, the finale is being written by the cast,” Hurtado

said. “As a group, they are writing an original song, and it’s really coming together beautifully. It’s going to have to do with resilience and the inspiration of bouncing back.”

The U.S. Army Soldier Show has exhibited those qualities for 26 years, and likely will do so again – along with brothers and sisters and a few old friends – for “Soldier Show 27.0.”

The 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show is sponsored by two premier sponsors; the U.S. Army G-1’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP) Program; and the U.S. Army’s Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF) Program.

Motorcycle safety takes foresight

Continued from page 16

OK, maybe this never happened. Maybe bikes could care less about their riders ... but I doubt that. My bike, the 1976 Honda, was almost a family member. (Well, after the 1950 Dodge truck but certainly before the then-top-of-the-line station wagon.)

I initially rode without a helmet (mid-70s, folks, and I was young) until one of my friends hit a deer and lost his memory and almost his life when his head hit cement. His whole personality changed and not for the better.

So I bought a state-of-the-art helmet. Another friend of mine had to “lay” his bike down (the Gooney bird guy) and he lost skin where no skin should ever be lost. So, I bought leathers. I learned and benefitted through the cost of others and you should, too.

Use Composite Risk Management, common sense in a check-list format. Always be aware of where you are and what you are doing (situational awareness).

And always remember if you make a mistake on two wheels, use the training you have received from the basic and experience rider courses. You don’t have a metal shield like you do in a car or truck.

Safety sense is common sense.

Eldredge is one of 141 Presidential Scholars

Continued from page 1

“Everyone is smart and I was surprised when I was chosen,” said Eldredge. “But I think I offer a perspective that many do not have – of other races, religions, culture and people that are completely different.”

With college being his next step, Eldredge looks back fondly on his life thus far.

“I take everything I’ve experienced at face value,” said Eldredge, adding each adventure offers something to be learned. “I live ‘by the seat of my pants,’ but can also look to the future.”

Eldredge plans to attend Utah’s Brigham Young University in the fall. In addition to his already impressive resume, the 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholar award will surely contribute his acceptance there.

Eldredge and fellow recipients of the award will be honored for their accomplishments during National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C., in late June.

He hopes to add another life experience, discussing politics with the big wigs and shaking hands with President Obama.

“If his schedule allows,” said Eldredge with a smile.

In some ways, Eldredge is just a typical high school kid; finishing up homework on the bus, playing soccer after school, band performances and learning new instruments to share his love of music; but in other ways, Eldredge is truly a unique individual, with thoughts, personality and life experiences that will open doors for him years to come.

“A whole world of opportunities surrounds us,” said Eldredge. “I take every one I can.”

PCS takes planning, patience

Continued from page 2

and get creative with those few remaining boxes of pasta and cans of bean sprouts.

If all else fails, drop off the leftover nonperishables at your local food pantry.

Go through bookshelves, kitchen cupboards, winter and summer clothes, shoes and the basement one final time. Check with vets’ organizations like Purple Hearts (www.purpleheartpickups.org) and donate your gently used books, clothes and knick-knacks. Take used magazines to your doc’s office (and grab a copy of your medical records while you are there) but be sure and rip off your address label.

Obtain copies of you and your children’s medical records from your physicians and dentists and grab a copy of pet records, too.

Finalize any utility shut off and turn on dates.

Change the address on the following: magazine subscriptions, airline mile programs, banking institutions, cell phone carriers and insurance agencies.

Pack the following items carefully and plan on carrying them with you on the road trip: jewelry, financial records, legal documents, photo albums and any other family records. (visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil for further details)

Sound like a lot? It is, but with patience and a clear strategy, this PCS can be painless and even fun. And according to Annibale, there is an upside to moving.

“The road trip is a nice chance to spend some quality, uninterrupted time with my husband and family.”

Veterans, current Soldiers share respect and war stories

Continued from page 1

The 11th Armored “Thunderbolts” Division activated in 1942 and entered combat in December 1944 as part of Gen. Patton’s 3rd Army in the Battle of the Bulge. By April 1945, the Thunderbolt’s spearhead assault had taken them into Bavaria, capturing many towns in rapid succession. Themar, Oberlauter, Coburg, Kronach, Kulmbach, Bayreuth, Grafenwoehr and Weiden all fell to the Thunderbolts by the end of April.

“I remember the names,” said Leroy Woychik, cipher operator, Headquarters Company, 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. “It feels like a different place now, but I remember all the town names.”

Woychik served with the Thunderbolts from 1942 to January 1946. He recalled driving from company to company, delivering messages in his Willy’s Jeep, but said very few landmarks

remain from during the war. However, he did remember the tower at Grafenwoehr.

The Thunderbolt’s offensive drive took them into Austria where they met with advancing Soviet forces outside of Linz at the end of the war.

While crossing German-held Austria, the Thunderbolts liberated two of the largest concentration camps in Austria, Mauthausen and Gusen, and rescued more than 8,000 prisoners at Mauthausen alone.

By the war’s end, the Thunderbolt Division had suffered nearly 2,900 casualties and more than 500 deaths in combat. The division captured more than 76,000 German prisoners, nearly twice the amount captured by the American Army in World War I.

To read more about the history of the 11th Armored Division and its Soldiers, visit www.11tharmoreddivision.com.



Sgt. Gustavo Pena, squad leader, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, speaks with retired Lt. Col. William Phelps who served with the 42nd Tank Battalion, 11th Armored “Thunderbolts” Division in World War II. The Thunderbolts captured the Wehrmacht Training Center at Grafenwoehr in April 1945, and returned recently for a visit.